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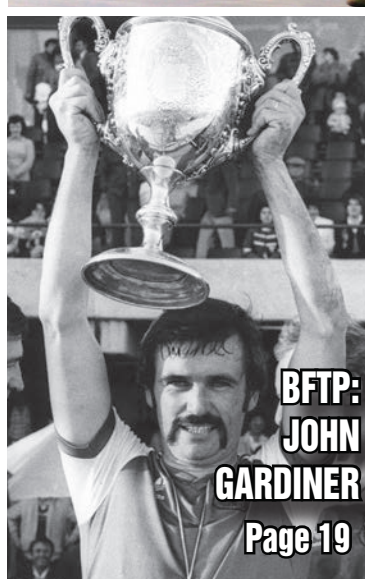
This Week's Line Up



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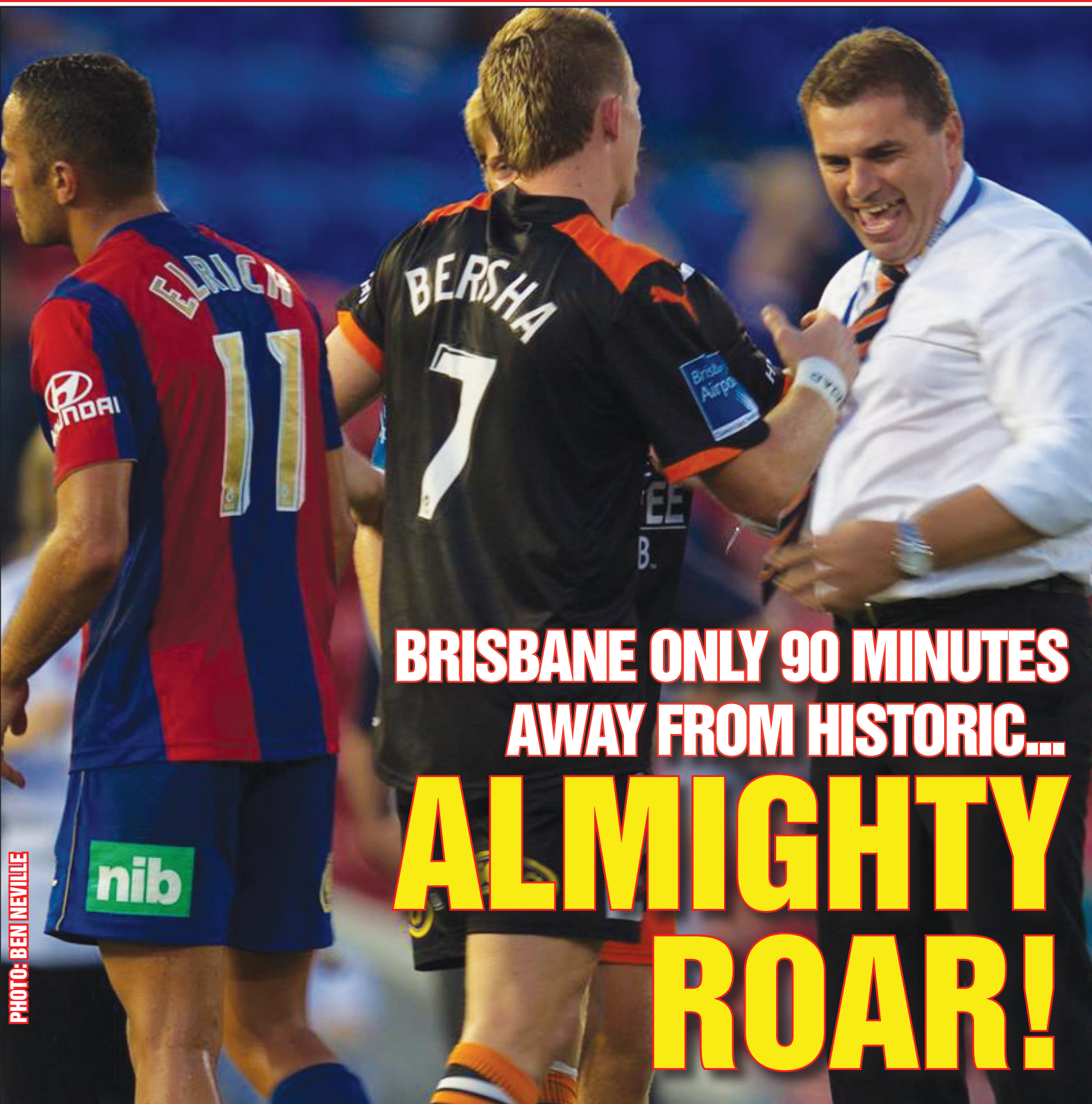
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# Socceroos to play at AAMI Park for the first time

The Qantas Socceroos will play at AAMI Park in Melbourne for the first time ever when they host Saudi Arabia in their final 2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifier Third Round match on Wednesday 29th February 2012 (Kick-off 7:30pm).

Football Federation Australia (FFA) and the Victorian Government made the historic announcement today at AAMI Park with Qantas Socceroos Head Coach Holger Osieck and star Melbourne-based Qantas Socceroos Harry Kewell and Archie Thompson.

FFA CEO Ben Buckley said the Qantas Socceroos first appearance at AAMI Park would be a celebration for all members of the football family from the grassroots to the Hyundai A-League.

"This match will be a first for the Qantas Socceroos at a purpose-built stadium that captures a European-style football atmosphere," Mr Buckley said.

"We are giving the Football Family across Australia and players registered with Football Federation Victoria in particular the privilege of an exclusive pre-sale window and a 10% discount as recognition of their passionate support for football and the Qantas Socceroos. "These people are the heartbeat of the game and I'm sure that passion will translate into a fantastic atmosphere for the Qantas Socceroos' first ever game at AAMI Park.

"We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Victorian Government and the Victorian Major Events

## Match Details

2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers Third Round Match Day 6

Socceroos vs. Saudi Arabia

Wednesday 29 February, 2011

AAMI Park, Melbourne

Kick Off: 7.30pm AEDT

Gates Open: 6.00pm

## Ticket Details

Category A - \$90 all tickets

Category B - \$60 Adult,

\$30 Concession, \$150 Family

Category C - \$30 Adult,

\$15 Concession, \$75 Family

Australian Home End - \$30 Adult,

\$15 Concession (No Family tickets)

10% Discount - Football Family,

Melbourne Heart and

Melbourne Victory and

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Company for their contribution and continued support of the Qantas Socceroos and football in Australia," concluded Buckley.

Victoria's Minister for Tourism and Major Events Louise Asher said this event was another opportunity for Australians to experience the world's best in sport, culture and entertainment in the nation's events capital, Victoria.

"This Qantas Socceroos match is part of an exciting major events calendar in Melbourne in early 2012; including the



The Socceroos will line up against Frank Rijkaard's Saudi Arabia at AAMI Park in February.

Australian Open Tennis, the Ironman Asia Pacific Championships, the UCI Track Cycling World Championships, the Superbike World Championship and the L'Oréal Melbourne Fashion Festival," Ms Asher said.

The Minister for Sport and Recreation, Hugh Delahunty, said the game would be a terrific opportunity for football fans to see the Socceroos in action, right in the heart of Melbourne.

"The Victorian Government is delight-

ed to support the staging of this match, which gives football fans a chance to cheer on the Socceroos as they continue their campaign to qualify for the 2014 World Cup," Mr Delahunty said.

This will be the Qantas Socceroos first match in Melbourne as part of their 2014 FIFA World Cup qualification campaign and with the Saudis needing a win to guarantee progression to the fourth round of the 2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers, it is sure to be an

exciting match.

Saudi Arabia, are currently ranked 98th in the FIFA World Rankings and are in second position of Group D of the 2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers - Third round.

The match will be the fourth meeting between the Qantas Socceroos and Saudi Arabia. The last time these two teams met was in September 2011 when the Qantas Socceroos defeated Saudi Arabia 3-1 in Dammam.

## Short Passes

### MAJOR BOOST FOR NEWCASTLE REGION WITH NEW SPONSORSHIP DEAL

Australia's largest rail freight company has made a major commitment to Newcastle sport and recreation announcing a three year sponsorship deal for both the Newcastle Knights in the National Rugby League competition and the Newcastle Jets in the Hyundai A League. Francis Awaritefe

### AWARITEFE AND VICTORY PART

Melbourne Victory Football Club advises that the tenure of Football Director, Francis Awaritefe, has concluded.

Having only been in the role for four months, Francis felt that the position wasn't right for him and he has decided to return to Sydney.

"I approached Richard Wilson (Managing Director) and told him that after much deliberation, I didn't want to pursue the role any further."

"While I have enjoyed working with the staff at Melbourne Victory, I have decided to return to Sydney for personal reasons," said Awaritefe.

Melbourne Victory's, Richard Wilson, said "we appreciate Francis' efforts and his honesty and wish him well in the future." The process of appointing a replacement will begin immediately.

### MILLER SUSPENDED FOR 1 GAME

Perth Glory midfielder Liam Miller will miss Saturday's blockbuster against Brisbane Roar at Suncorp Stadium.

The star midfielder was suspended for 1 game following his 37th minute red card in the 2-2 draw with Melbourne Victory last weekend.

# Under 23s held to scoreless draw with Iraq

The Qantas Australian Under 23s were held to a 0-0 draw by Iraq in their AFC Asian Qualifier for the 2012 London Games match played in Doha, Qatar on Tuesday.

In a match that was unusually played in very difficult, windy conditions in the Qatari capital, the Qantas Australian U23s dominated the majority of play and possession in the first half.

Qantas Australian U23s Head Coach Aurelio Vidmar handed qualifying campaign debuts to goalkeeper Mat Ryan and attacking midfielder Dimitrios Petratos.

Around the 15 minute mark, Mate Dugandzic had a good one-on-one opportunity against the Iraqi goalkeeper, Jalal Hachim, but unfortunately put his shot over the crossbar. Ten minutes later Sebastian Ryall had a great header that forced a fantastic save out of Hachim.

Just before the half-hour mark, Qantas Australian U23s defender Aziz Behich picked up a yellow card, his second of the campaign after collecting one against the UAE in Adelaide, which rules him for the next match against Uzbekistan.

The Qantas Australian U23s had another three chances before the break but were unable to convert any of them.

The second half both teams started to tire and the chances were not as forthcoming although the Qantas Australian U23s still created opportunities. James Brown had a good chance mid way through the second half but his shot went skimmed over the crossbar.

After the match, Aurelio Vidmar was disappointed that his team was again unable to find the back of the net.

"Tonight we lost three points, we had very good chances in the first half and we should have had the game won by half time.

"We controlled the game for most of the 90 minutes and I couldn't fault the effort of the players, we just couldn't score a goal.

"The group is still very much open and we have an important match against Uzbekistan in five days time and we need to take three points" concluded Vidmar

The UAE will host Uzbekistan in the other Group B match day 2 fixture tonight at the Khalifa bin Zayed Stadium in Al Ain.

The Qantas Australian Under 23s will now travel back to Australia to face Uzbekistan on Sunday 27 November at Parramatta Stadium.

With the loss of Behich and with Cameron Edwards returning back to England to join his club Reading FC,

Vidmar has called in Newcastle Jets midfielder Ben Kantarovski and Melbourne Heart defender Curtis Good into the Qantas Australian U23s squad to face Uzbekistan.

The teams in each group of the third round of qualifying play in a home-and-away format from 21 September 2011, to 14 March 14, 2012, with the winner of each group directly qualifying for the London 2012 Olympic Games Football competition.

The three second-placed teams from the third round will clash in a playoff at a centralised venue from March 25 to 29, 2012, and the winners of this group will meet the representatives of CAF (Africa) for a berth in the 2012 London Olympic Games.

*The AFC Asian Qualifiers for the 2012 London Games match between the Qantas Australian Under 23s and Uzbekistan will be broadcast live and exclusive on FOX SPORTS.*

## Group B Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
UZBEKISTAN	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
AUSTRALIA	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
UAE	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
IRAQ	2	0	1	1	0	2	-2	1

## Match Details

Iraq 0  
Qantas Australian U-23s 0  
Al Arabi Stadium, Doha, Qatar  
Tuesday, 22 November 2011  
Crowd: 200

Iraq line-up: 12.Jalal Hassan Hachim (gk), 2.Faisal Jasim Nafil, 3.Ali Bahjat Fadhil, 5.Faris Hassan Neamah, 6.Amjed Kalaf Mansoor Al-Muntafik (11.Ali Saad Mahmood 79), 7.Saif Salman Hashim, 9.Mohammed Saad Abdullah, 10.Amjed Radhi (c) (18. Mostafa Mohammed Jawad Kareem 89), 13.Dhurgum Ismael Dawood, 15.Mustafa Ahmed Abdulameer (16.Mohamad Abdulrahman Karrar 60'), 17 Mf Nabeel Sabah air

Substitutes Not Used: 1.Mohamad Qasim Kareem, 4.Ahmed Issa Ibrahim, 8.Hozan Ismael Mohammed, 14.Hussein Ali Waheed

Head Coach: Radhi Sh Swadi (IRAQ)  
Yellow Cards: Faisal Jasim Nafil 90+3'  
Red Cards: Nil

Qantas Australian U-23s line-up: 1.Matthew Ryan, 2.Matthew Foschini, 3.Sebastian Ryall, 4.Matthew Jurman, 5.Aziz Behich, 6.Oliver Bozanic (c), 7.Mate Dugandzic, 8.James Brown, 9.Jason Hoffman (17.Adam Taggart 71'), 10.Mitchell Nichols, 11.Dimitrios Petratos (16.Kofi Danning 76')

Substitutes not used: 12.Daniel Mullen, 13.Dylan McGowan, 14.Rhyan Grant, 15.Cameron Edwards, 18.Mark Birighitti

Head Coach: Aurelio Vidmar (AUS)  
Yellow Cards: Aziz Behich 28, Matthew Foschini 45+1'  
Red Cards: Nil



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Friday 25th November 2011



# SCOREBOARD

TABLE	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Brisbane Roar	7	5	2	0	18	5	13	17
2 Central Coast Mariners	7	3	2	2	8	7	1	11
3 Sydney FC	7	3	2	2	9	9	0	11
4 Perth Glory	7	3	1	3	7	8	-1	10
5 Melbourne Heart	7	2	3	2	10	8	2	9
6 Newcastle Jets	7	3	0	4	8	12	-4	9
7 Melbourne Victory	7	1	5	1	6	6	0	8
8 Adelaide United	7	2	2	3	7	13	-6	8
9 Wellington Phoenix	7	1	3	3	7	8	-1	6
10 Gold Coast United	7	1	2	4	9	13	-4	5

## ROUND 07 RESULTS

<b>Melbourne Heart</b> 2 (Matt Thompson 4', Jonathan Germano 68')	<b>Sydney FC</b> 2 (Nick Carle 77', Brett Emerton 88')
<b>Gold Coast United</b> 1 (Peter Jungschlager 63')	<b>Central Coast Mariners</b> 3 (Patrick Zwaanswijk 41', Michael McGlinchey 66', Troy Hearfield 82')
<b>Wellington Phoenix</b> 1 (Nigel Boogaard 85' (og))	<b>Melbourne Victory</b> 2 (Carlos Hernandez 53' (pen), Daniel Allsopp 58')
<b>Adelaide United</b> 1 (Bruce Djite 44')	<b>Perth Glory</b> 2 (Andrezinho 71', Shane Smeltz 87')
<b>Newcastle Jets</b> 1 (Ryan Griffiths 45')	
<b>Brisbane Roar</b> 2 (Henrique 56', James Meyer 83')	

## TOP GOAL SCORERS



Henrique scored one of his most important goals for the Roar.

THIS WEEK	Week 8	Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
	Fri 25 Nov 2011	Adelaide United v Newcastle Jets	Hindmarsh Stadium	7:30pm	8:00pm
	Sat 26 Nov 2011	Central Coast Mariners v Melbourne Heart	Bluetongue Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
	Sat 26 Nov 2011	Brisbane Roar v Perth Glory	Suncorp Stadium	6:45pm	7:45pm
	Sun 27 Nov 2011	Wellington Phoenix v Sydney FC	Westpac Stadium	4:30pm	2:30pm
	Sun 27 Nov 2011	Melbourne Victory v Gold Coast United	AAMI Park	5:00pm	5:00pm

NEXT WEEK	Week 9	Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
	Fri 2 Dec 2011	Adelaide United v Central Coast Mariners	Hindmarsh Stadium	7:30pm	8:00pm
	Sat 3 Dec 2011	Newcastle Jets v Melbourne Victory	Ausgrid Stadium	7:45pm	5:30pm
	Sat 3 Dec 2011	Perth Glory v Gold Coast United	nib Stadium	7:00pm	10:00pm
	Sun 4 Dec 2011	Melbourne Heart v Wellington Phoenix	Latrobe Cplx, Morwell	3:00pm	3:00pm
	Sun 4 Dec 2011	Sydney FC v Brisbane Roar	Sydney Football Stadium	5:00pm	5:00pm

## A-LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK ROUND 7

Compiled by Steven Talevski



**GK: Michael Theoklitos** – The Brisbane Roar goalkeeper had a fantastic game despite conceding a goal. The Roar can thank him for allowing them to equal the longest undefeated streak in any code of football in Australia with a number of crucial saves.

**RCB: Patrick Zwaanswijk** – The big Dutchman scored one of the A-League's greatest free kicks with a thunderbolt to open the scoring at the Sydney Football Stadium. Zwaanswijk also had a solid game in defence for the Mariners.

**CB: Bas van den Brink** – Bas van den Brink had a man of the match performance against the Melbourne Victory despite conceding a controversial penalty.

**LCB: Ben Sigmund** – The New Zealand international continues his terrific form in the centre of defence for the Phoenix as he led them to a spirited comeback against Adelaide in front of over 20 000 fans at Eden Park.

**RM: Paul Ifill** – He may have only played for half an hour but he was able to influence the match as he helped Wellington to an important point.

**CM: Matt Thompson** – The former Jet was given a run in the Heart midfield and it paid dividends

for John van't Schip as Thompson scored the opener and assisted in Germano's winner.

**CM: Jonatan Germano** – John van't Schip allowed Jonatan Germano to play in more of an attacking role which allowed him to pop up in attack and score a wonderful volley for Melbourne Heart's winner.

**LM: Brett Emerton** – The Socceroo returned from international duty and played one of his best games in the A-League which was topped off by a stunning free kick.

**RF: Archie Thompson** – The Melbourne Victory star was the lone shining light for his team with scintillating runs in a disappointing draw against ten men Perth Glory.

**ST: Matthew Simon** – The central coast striker may not have found the back of the net but was a solid target for the Mariners in attack. Simon also set up Troy Hearfield's goal with a classy cut back.

**LF: Shane Smeltz** – Despite having a quite first half, Smeltz had an improved second half by scoring the equaliser for the Glory with a great header and almost scoring a winner minutes later.

## Star Man

Bas van den Brink  
Perth Glory



The big Dutch central defender dominated in defence for the ten man glory against the Melbourne Victory. Bas van den Brink found himself unlucky to be at the end of a wrong penalty decision early in the first half which allowed the Victory to take the lead. However his experience and talent was on show as he helped Perth with a man down get back into the match and earn themselves a well deserved point.

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Newcastle Jets



1

Brisbane Roar



2

Match Details

**Newcastle Jets 1** (Ryan Griffiths 45')  
**Brisbane Roar 2** (Henrique 57', James Meyer 83')  
At Ausgrid Stadium  
Referee: Gerard Parsons  
Crowd: 13,174

**Newcastle Jets:** 1. Ben Kennedy (Jack Duncan 52'), 4. Nikolai Topor-Stanley, 6. Ben Kantarovski, 7. Kasey Wehrman (25. Jacob Pepper 71'), 8. Jeremy Brockie, 10. Ruben Zadkovich, 12. Jobe Wheelhouse (C), 11. Tarek Elrich, 13. Byun Sung-Hwan, 14. Labinot Haliti (24. Francis Jeffers 74'), 23. Ryan Griffiths

Substitutes Not Used: 2. Taylor Regan  
Yellow Cards: Kantarovski 6', Zadkovich 58', Topor-Stanley 89'  
Red Cards: Nil

**Brisbane Roar:** 1. Michael Theoklitos, 2. Matthew Smith (C), 3. Shane Steffanuto, 5. Ivan Franjic (19. Jack Hingert 46'), 6. Erik Paartalu, 7. Besart Berisha, 8. Massimo Murodocca, 10. Henrique (21. James Meyer 80'), 11. Issey Nakajima-Farran (18. Luke Brattan 74'), 16. Mohamed Adnan, 22. Thomas Broich

Substitutes Not Used: 30 Matt Acton (Gk)  
Yellow Cards: Henrique 30', Adnan 40', Berisha 73', Paartalu 90+6  
Red Cards: Nil

# Roar equal Australian club record

By Shaun Dyas

The Brisbane Roar extended their undefeated streak to 35 matches after a pulsating 2-1 victory over a gallant Newcastle Jets in front of 13,174 fans at Ausgrid Stadium.

In a match that will go down in the record books as equalling the longest undefeated streak by any team across any code in Australia, the Roar were made to work hard for their victory.

Gary Van Egmond said before the blockbuster clash that he would not 'park the bus' and that his side would attack the A-League pacesetters. The Newcastle coach was true to his word.

The home side played with verve and desire, continually pressing their opponents into error. Unfortunately for the Jets, it was a defensive lapse that proved costly.

With the game tied at 1-1, Brisbane took a quick corner in the 83rd minute. A combination of Besart Berisha and Massimo Murodocca led to the ball being drilled in low to substitute James Meyer. His first time strike was a peach as he drilled it past substitute Newcastle keeper Jack Duncan and into the roof of the net.

It was a tough blow for the home side who had earlier dominated much of the match. In truth a superb performance from Brisbane keeper Michael Theoklitos kept his side in the game.

The keeper first saved his side in the 20th minute. Newcastle's relentless pressure led to a turnover and the ball fell into the path of the impressive Labinot Haliti. He clipped a stunning chipped pass into the path of striker Ryan Griffiths who was through one-on-one with Theoklitos. The keeper spread himself superbly to block the goal bound effort and the ball was cleared by the Roar defence.

The home side continued to press their

opponent and forced them into further error which led to a chance in the 24th minute. The tireless Ruben Zadkovich beat numerous defenders on a spirited run. He gave a neat short pass to his teammate Haliti who swerved past Mohamed Adnan and shot low and hard at the right post of Theoklitos. The keeper was down quickly and even managed to cling onto the strike.

Theoklitos was at it again in the 31st minute. Kasey Wehrman whipped in a corner from the left that was met strongly at the back post by his captain Jobe Wheelhouse. He powered a header across the face of goal that Theoklitos somehow clawed away to safety.

Newcastle created another opportunity in the 42nd minute from another corner. The ball was bent in again by Wehrman. For the only time in the match Theoklitos was beaten to the ball by powerful Jets defender Nikolai Topor-Stanley. The pressure from the Roar keeper was enough to prevent Topor-Stanley from being able to direct his header and it flew over the crossbar from 8 yards.

Just as the home side were beginning to think they would never open the scoring the goal finally came in the 45th minute. Zadkovich was the architect as he picked the ball up about 35 metres from goal. He used the inside of his right foot and picked out Griffiths brilliantly with a wonder ball. The striker remained composed and clipped his strike over the advancing Theoklitos from 12 yards to give the home side a deserved half time advantage.

Newcastle should have extended their lead a minute after the interval. Griffiths played a slide rule pass out wide to overlapping fullback Byun Sung-Hwan. His cross was uncharacteristically missed by Roar defender Shane Steffanuto and fell perfectly for Jeremy Brockie. The striker smashed his shot from 12 yards straight at Theoklitos. If he had his time over, the striker may well have elected

to place his effort as he had the whole goal to aim for.

Moments later, disaster struck for the home side. A ball was played in behind the Newcastle defence and both Tarek Elrich and Ben Kennedy were desperate to clear the ball. It led to a collision between the pair and the keeper had to be stretched off with a suspected broken nose.

Jack Duncan replaced Kennedy and unfortunately for the young man his first task was to pick the ball out of his net. Massimo Murodocca was released down the left side of the Jets defence and picked out a beautiful square pass across the box for the unmarked Henrique to slide home for the equaliser in the 57th minute.

Newcastle captain Wheelhouse summed up the feeling among the home fans after the game as most observers felt that the home side deserved at least a draw from the match. Wheelhouse conceded that his side did not quite do enough against the competitions benchmark.

"We stuck it to them," he said. When prompted further he replied "It's hard to do for 90 minutes against these guys." Next for the Jets is an away game against Adelaide on Friday night, while the Roar have the chance to set a new record against Perth at Suncorp Stadium next Saturday.

Match Stats		
5	Saves	3
7	Attempts on target	8
6	Attempts off target	5
59%	Possession	41%
10	Corners	2
2	Offsides	4
14	Fouls committed	17



Roar coach Ange Postecoglou is ecstatic after the final whistle is blown. Photo: BEN NEVILLE



Jets keeper Ben Kennedy suffers a broken nose and has to go off on a stretcher. Photo: BEN NEVILLE



Ryan Griffiths scores for the Jets and momentarily Photo: BEN NEVILLE



The Roar can thank Michael Theoklitos for being in great form and keeping the Jets at bay on more than a few occasions. Photo: BEN NEVILLE



**Wellington Phoenix**

**Adelaide United**

**Match Details**

**Wellington Phoenix 1** (Boogaard 83' (og))  
**Adelaide United FC 1** (Djite 45')  
Referee: Peter Green  
Crowd: 20,078 @ Eden Park

**Wellington Phoenix:** 20.Tony Warner (gk), 2.Manny Muscat, 3.Tony Loch-head, 6.Tim Brown, 7.Leo Bertos, 9.Chris Greenacre, 12.Nicky Ward (11. Daniel 73'), 17.Vince Lia (4.Brent Grif-fiths 89'), 18.Ben Sigmund, 22.Andrew Durante (c), 24.Alex Smith (8.Paul Ifill 59')

Substitutes not used: 1.Mark Paston (gk)  
Yellow Cards: Brown 38', Lia 77'  
Red Cards: Nil

**Adelaide United:** 1.Eugene Galekovic (gk), 3.Nigel Boogaard, 4.Jon McKain (c), 6.Cassio (2.Osama Malik 38'), 7.Zenon Caravella, 10.Dario Vidosic (13.Ricardo Dasilva 90'), 11.Bruce Djite, 14.Cameron Watson, 16.Spase Dilevski, 17.Iain Ramsay (18.Fabian Barbiero 81'), 21.Francisco Usucar

Substitutes not used: 39.Nick Munro (gk)  
Yellow Cards: Dilevski 33', Usucar 67', Caravella 79', Da Silva 90+3'  
Red Cards: Nil

By Nic Kerber

Bruce Djite's first goal of the season was not enough for Adelaide United FC to see of a fast finishing Wellington Phoenix, the match at Eden Park in Auckland ending in a 1-1 draw.

When Djite gave the Reds the lead on the stroke of half time, the signs were promising that they could register their second win on New Zealand soil and back to back victories for the first time this season.

However, looking to reward a 20,078 strong crowd that had packed in for the first Hyundai A-League match at the Eden Park, the Phoenix grabbed an 83rd minute equaliser when Reds defender Nigel Boogaard, who had been resolute to that point, unluckily glanced a header from a Paul Ifill cross into his own net.

The final whistle may not have seen the Reds take home all three points but Reds Coach Rini Coolen will know the positivity, effort and commitment from his side saw them take another step in the right direction.

Djite was a pillar of strength playing as a sole target man in the absence of the injured Sergio van Dijk, while the Reds' midfield held their own against a Phoenix side keen to register their first win since mid October.

United's cause was not helped by Cas-sio's early exit after 38 minutes after the Brazilian was forced from the field due to the bruised foot that he suffered against Gold Coast United which threatened to keep him from making the trip to Auckland.

On a perfect day for football United had the first chance of the game when Cam-eron Watson picked out an unmarked Djite in the box but the striker could not force his header on target after just seven minutes.

There was little for either goalkeeper to do in a first half that saw the Reds with more than their fair share of possession



Adelaide United's Bruce Djite takes on Phoenix pair, Andrew Durante and Tony Lochhead, in a race for the ball. Photo: Courtesy FFA

and managing to suffocate the Phoenix from breaking into any sort of rhythm.

Osama Malik came on for Cassio with Coolen choosing to reshuffle Francisco Usucar to left back and put Malik in hold-ing midfield next to Spase Dilevski, a role the youngster more than warmed to.

The Reds were struggling to force Phoenix keeper Tony Warner into any serious action, Iain Ramsay with a great opportunity to catch Wellington off guard in the 40th minute but he blasted his ef-fort well over the bar.

Chris Greenacre then followed Ram-say's example as he flew a close range

attempt over the top before the Reds struck a lethal blow just before half time.

Dario Vidosic curled a sublime flick into the path of Djite, who positioned himself superbly to get inside of his marker, Phoenix captain Andrew Durante to get a vital first touch in front of an encroaching Warner, the two colliding as the ball rolled into the back of the net.

Leading at the break, the Reds could sense three points there for the taking and they remained compact after the break as Wellington chased an equal-iser.

Holding sway, a great chance opened

up for United to sting on the counter at-tack when Vidosic had Djite in support, but the former's intended pass was too heavily weighted for Djite to try and put away his second.

Wellington Coach Ricki Herbert went to his bench for inspiration, bringing on Paul Ifill with half an hour to go, and just as the Reds seemed to maintain their com-poseure, the Phoenix substitute instigated the equaliser as his dangerous cross coupled by the deliberate run of Ben Sig-mund put Boogaard under pressure and the Reds defender could only watch as his attempted clearing header flew past

Galekovic.

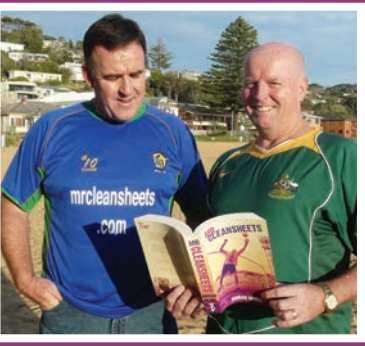
Suddenly it was the home side sniffing at all three points, however the Reds held on, captain Jon McKain typifying United's resolve as he suffered a gash above his right eye in a nasty head clash with Du-rante in the dying stages to ensure United took home a point.

Notably, Ricardo Da Silva was given his first taste of the Hyundai A-League when he was introduced for Vidosic in injury time, the result meaning the Reds are un-defeated now in their past three games.

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## Serge back in time for Mariners

Adelaide United FC striker Sergio van Dijk has as good as conceded that he will miss Friday night's match against the Newcastle Jets due to a calf injury but is already setting himself for a return against the Central Coast Mariners the following week.

After suffering a calf tear in the first half against Gold Coast United on November 11, van Dijk was staring at being out of action for up to three weeks.

Speaking about the progress of his rehabilitation today, last season's Hyundai A-League Golden Boot winner indicated he is likely to only miss two games and is focusing on being back for the visit of the Central Coast Mariners to Hindmarsh Stadium on December 2.

"It's going well, it's progressed a lot but I don't think it's going to be ready for this Friday's game," van Dijk said.

"I wish I could train today and try some

things out but I think it's a little bit too early. In saying that, it's going really well and I just want to be fully fit for next week."

Knowing the sensitivity and risk of coming back too early, particularly from a calf injury, van Dijk is not rushing his comeback and over exerting himself to try and be a chance of facing the Jets. Rather, he wants to ensure he is a certainty to be available for selection to tackle the Mariners.

"This game (against Newcastle) just comes a couple of days too soon and there's also a risk, I don't want to make it worse and be out for a longer period, so I think the coach, myself and the medical staff have decided to be cautious and focus on the next game," the scorer of 43 goals from 86 Hyundai A-League appearances said.

Prior to van Dijk's injury, Reds fans were just beginning to see the growing on field chemistry between he, fellow

striker Bruce Djite and Reds' number 10 Dario Vidosic. Van Dijk admits his setback has been disappointing as it has temporarily halted the understanding the trio were starting to build, but he remains positive in the fact that he is only missing two games.

That's the downside of having an injury but at the moment I'm happy that it doesn't take too long and that's why I'm actually more positive about it," Van Dijk said.

"Of course I'd rather be on the pitch but I could have been out for longer and this is only two weeks and I see it in perspective that I have team mates who were out for six months, so I can't complain about anything."

While van Dijk may be a week away from returning, Milan Susak and Evgeniy Levchenko have been training with the main squad and appear likely to be available for selection to take on the Jets.



**Gold Coast United**

**Melbourne Heart**

**Match Details**

**GOLD COAST UNITED 1**  
(Jungschlager 63')  
**MELBOURNE HEART 2**  
(Thompson 4', Germano 68')  
HT: 0-1  
At Skilled Park, Gold Coast  
Referee: Peter O'Leary

**Gold Coast United:** 1.Glen Moss [gk], 2.Josh Brillante (4.Zac Anderson 46'), 3.Michael Thwaite (c), 5.Kristian Rees, 6.Paul Beekmans, 7.Golgol Mebrahtu, 12.Dylan Macallister (17.Chris Harold 66') , 15.Adama Traore, 16.Maceo Rigters, 22.Peter Jungschlager, 29.Mitch Bevan (21.Daniel Severino 72').

Unused subs: 20.Jerrad Tyson [gk].  
Yellow cards: Mebrahtu 90'.  
Red cards: None.

**Melbourne Heart:** 1.Clint Bolton [gk], 2.Michael Marrone, 3.Brendan Hamill, 5.Fred (c), 6.Matt Thompson, 7.Rutger Worm (15.David Williams 51'), 9.Maycon (19.Eli Babalj 58'), 10.Wayne Srhoj, 13.Jonatan Germano, 18.Curtis Good, 25.Adrian Madaschi (4.Simon Colosimo 80').

Unused subs: 30.Sebastian Mattei [gk].  
Yellow cards: Worm 26', Thompson 90+1'.  
Red cards: None.

# Heartbreak for Gold Coast

By Neil Favager

GOALS in either half from Matt Thompson and Jonatan Germano were enough for Melbourne Heart to claim all three points in a 2-1 win over Gold Coast United at Skilled Park, despite a spirited performance from Miron Bleiberg's men.

United are now in uncharted waters after three consecutive losses but again showed good signs despite the defeat. Their undoing was similar to last week's encounter in Adelaide - after falling behind they fought back well to level, only to be caught napping five minutes later and surrender the parity they had worked so hard to achieve.

With James Brown and Dylan McGowan away on Olyroo duty and Ben Halloran's knee strain not risked, Miron Bleiberg was forced into at least three changes from last week's starting line-up. Josh Brillante came in for McGowan, Mitch Bevan replaced Halloran and young forward Golgol Mebrahtu made his first appearance of the season in place of Brown.

But Gold Coast couldn't have got off to a worse start, going behind as early as the fourth minute courtesy of a Matt Thompson strike. The Heart midfielder fired a warning sign just a minute earlier, forcing Glen Moss into a smart save, but he made no mistake with his next chance. Good work from Rutger Worm fashioned the chance and when the ball was laid square to Thompson just inside the box his firm, low drive found its way past Moss.

United were stunned but responded well, almost levelling eight minutes later. Dutch import Paul Beekmans clipped a neat ball to countryman Maceo Rigters and after muscling past his marker the striker crashed a powerful drive that thundered back off the crossbar.

Maycon fluffed a glorious chance to double the visitors' lead midway through the half when he headed over from close range, while at the other end Dylan Macallister's 20-metre drive was well stopped by Bolton.

The Heart keeper was at his very best soon afterwards when he produced a flying save to keep out Peter Jungschlager's rasping free-kick as the home side looked for an



Match Stats		
3	Saves	10
14	Attempts on target	6
4	Attempts off target	6
53%	Possession	47%
5	Corners	1
2	Offsides	3
12	Fouls committed	14

Jonatan Germano nips in to score and secure all the three points for the visiting Melbourne Heart against Gold Coast. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

equaliser before the break.

Melbourne were always dangerous on the break but in the dying moments of the first 45 minutes Gold Coast's luck was out again, this time leaving Mitch Bevan frustrated as his far post cross cannoned back off the upright leaving Heart's lead intact going into the break.

Bleiberg reshuffled before the restart bringing Zac Anderson on in place of Brillante, moving Jungschlager to right full-back and Michael Thwaite into midfield. The tinkering worked well early on and United looked dy-

namic, energised and the more likely scorers as they dominated possession.

And the home side were rewarded for their bright start, levelling just after the hour. Adama Traore was floored on the edge of the box and the dead ball task was given to Jungschlager. The Dutchman didn't disappoint with a blistering low shot that beat Bolton and ricocheted into the net off the post to give United a deserved equaliser.

But Gold Coast didn't get to enjoy being level for too long. Just five minutes later Germano held off Traore and cleverly lifted

the ball past Moss to restore Heart's lead after a tremendous pass from Thompson put him through.

Bleiberg's men pressed and Thwaite's weaving run through the Heart defence almost bore fruit, but the visitors' backline held on to register back-to-back wins and take the points home to Victoria.

"At the moment we have to accept that something is missing and we have to do something about it," said Miron Bleiberg after the game.

"We are not easy beats but we can't con-

cede two goals in every game and expect to win. We did well to come back after being one-nil down, but history repeated itself and like last week we conceded another goal within a few minutes.

"From what I recall Heart only had one good chance in the second half and they scored from it, which is the difference at the moment and naturally that's very disappointing for all of us. The only thing we can do is continue to work hard with what we have and look to strengthen the squad if we can."



Heart are out of the blocks early thanks to Matt Thompson's opener. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



Heart Captain Fred is at full stretch to stop Gold Coast's Golgol Mebrahtu. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

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Sydney FC

2

CC Mariners

3

Match Details

Sydney FC 2 (Carle 77', Emerton 88')  
Central Coast Mariners 2 (Zwaanswijk 41', McGlinchey 66', Hearfield 82')  
Referee: Strebre Delovski  
Crowd: 13, 947

Sydney FC: 1. Liam Reddy (Gk), 3. Jamie Coyne (12. Shannon Cole 61'), 4. Pascal Bosschaart, 5. Michael Beauchamp, 7. Brett Emerton, 8. Karol Kisel, 10. Nick Carle, 15. Terry McFlynn (C) (9. Bruno Cazarine 46'), 17. Terry Antonis (6. Hirofumi Moriyasu 73')), 19. Mark Bridge, 21. Scott Jamieson

Yellow Cards: McFlynn 22', Jamieson 72', Kisel 90+3'  
Red Cards: None

Central Coast Mariners: 20. Justin Pasfield (Gk), 2. Daniel McBreen (62' 22. Mustafa Amini), 3. Joshua Rose, 4. Pedj Bojic, 6. Patrick Zwaanswijk, 7. John Hutchinson (10. Adriano Pellegrino 86'), 8. Rostyn Griffiths, 9. Bernie Ibini (12. Troy Hearfield 79'), 14. Michael McGlinchey, 18. Alex Wilkinson (C), 19. Matthew Simon,

Yellow Cards: Hutchinson 22', Griffiths 84'  
Red Cards: None

# Mariners trump SFC in thriller

By Mike Salter

The SFS again played host to a five-goal affair, but this time Sydney FC finished on the wrong side of the ledger.

Vitezslav Lavicka's side made a rousing fight of the match, however, after the left feet of Patrick Zwaanswijk and Michael McGlinchey had given the Mariners what looked like a comfortable buffer.

Neither side could make much headway in the early stages, although there were fleeting chances at both ends. Two eventual goalscorers combined when Zwaanswijk headed McGlinchey's right-wing corner over the Sydney bar on six minutes, while at the other end Mark Bridge did well to control a sharp infield ball from Scott Jamieson, but sent his eventual shot marginally too high.

With the pace of the game becoming somewhat frantic and the midfield interplay on both sides failing to impress, the first half was disappointingly sterile. Sydney appeared to be taking the initiative at the half-hour mark, but on 35 minutes they received a surprise when Bernie Ibini-Isei managed to get the wrong side of Michael Beauchamp and fire a shot at goal, which Liam Reddy did well to smother.

Six minutes later came the opener. An over-eager Terry Antonis fouled Daniel McBreen on the edge of the Sydney area, and the Mariners took full advantage of the dead-ball opportunity, with Patrick Zwaanswijk receiving a neat touch-off to blast a rocketing left-footed shot into Reddy's



Mariner Mustafa Amini and Sydney FC's Scott Jamieson bump and grind in an attempt to take control of the ball. Photo: KIP HOBSON

top corner.

The away side maintained their lead until the break, and indeed looked the better side in the minutes immediately after it. Lavicka had again substituted Bruno Cazarine on at half-time, this time in place of Terry McFlynn who had received a knock in the first half, but this time it took the Brazilian some time to get going.

The game was livening up, with openings apparent at both ends, and goals seemed potentially abundant. Sure enough, on 66 minutes the Mariners doubled their lead. Another

substitute, Mustafa Amini, played Pedj Bojic in cleverly on the right. The little fullback played a crisp ball infield and McGlinchey beat Reddy at his near post with a low, accurate left-footed strike.

It was déjà vu for Sydney, who had been two down against the Gold Coast in their previous game. And they did indeed step up the tempo in the succeeding minutes; Bridge connected with a long ball on 74 minutes but just failed to round Justin Pasfield; from the subsequent corner, the former Sydney keeper reacted sharply

after Nick Carle's stabbed shot was deflected.

Three minutes later Sydney got the goal they had merited, and a good one it was. Cazarine touched the ball deftly through to Bridge, who ran on and sent a trademark chip towards goal. Pasfield managed to block it, but Carle was on hand to head the ball into the unguarded net.

The Mariners were looking rattled, not least when Amini shot wildly on 80 minutes from a promising position. But the two-goal lead was restored when Matt Simon, using his body to

excellent effect, forced his way past Beauchamp by the right-hand by-line and hooked the ball back into the six-yard area. Troy Hearfield, just arrived as a substitute, was on hand to knock the ball home.

Still Sydney were not beaten. Cazarine's shot from a Shannon Cole pass slid just wide of Pasfield's left-hand post, and on 87 minutes a foul on an increasingly influential Brett Emerton by Rostyn Griffiths presented the home side with a 20-yard free kick opportunity straight in front of the Cove. Emerton picked himself up and sent a superb, curving right-footed shot past Pasfield. Game not over yet.

Sydney's last chance to steal a point arrived in the second minute of added time, when a corner was floated in from the right. Cazarine connected, a Mariners head altered the trajectory, and Pasfield was eventually forced into a full-length stretch to palm it away.

That was that, however, and the Mariners gained a vital three points, drawing level with their adversaries on the competition table.

Match Stats		
1	Saves	3
7	Attempts on target	6
3	Attempts off target	2
47%	Possession	53%
5	Corners	1
6	Offsides	0
16	Fouls committed	9



Up There Carle-zaly? Sydney FC's Nick Carle soars high to win the heading duel. Photo: KIP HOBSON



For your eyes only: Mariner Pedj Bojic and Sydney FC's Brett Emerton have their sights set. Photo: KIP HOBSON

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Melbourne Victory



2

Perth Glory



2

Match Details

**Melbourne Victory 2**  
(Carlos Hernandez 53', Danny Allsopp 58')  
**Perth Glory 2**  
(Andrezinho 71', Shan Smeltz 87')  
Sunday, 20 November 2011  
Venue: Etihad Stadium  
Referee: Chris Beath  
Attendance: 18,404

Melbourne Victory: 21. Ante Covic, 3. Fabio, 6. Leigh Broxham, 7. Matthew Kemp (11. Marco Rojas 46'), 10. Archie Thompson, 12. Rodrigo Vargas, 14. Billy Celeski, 15. Tom Pondeljak (17. Jimmy Jeggo 73'), 16.Carlos Hernandez, 18. Danny Allsopp, 23. Adrian Leijer.

Yellow cards: Fabio 12' Billy Celeski 70'  
Red cards: nil

Perth Glory: 1.Danny Vukovic , 2.Josh Mitchell, 3.Bas Van Den Brink, 4.Billy Mehmet (27.Andrezinho 69'), 6.Chris Coyne, 7.Jacob Burns, 8.Adam Hughes, 9.Shane Smeltz, 10.Liam Miller, 19.Josh Risdon (17.Todd Howarth 82'), 21.Mile Sterjovski (14. Steven McGarry 46'),

Yellow cards: Jacob Burns 7', Billy Mehmet 56', Chris Coyne 78'  
Red cards: Liam Miller 37'

# Glory comeback against all odds

By Daniel Quinn

10-man Perth Glory held Melbourne Victory to a 2-2 draw at Etihad Stadium on Sunday thanks to a late goal by Shane Smeltz.

Melbourne came into the game with two changes after their nil-all draw with Central Coast Mariners with Carlos Hernandez and Ante Covic replacing Lawrence Thomas and Marco Rojas. Covic returning from his one-week suspension and Hernandez after representing Costa Rica. The visitors from Perth made one change with Andrezinho making way for Marquee man Mile Sterjovski.

The first chance for both teams came on 7 minutes when Sterjovski's ball wasn't flicked home by Shane Smeltz. Victory then went straight up the other end with Carlos Hernandez but his free kick went just wide of Vukovic's post.

Adam Hughes was next up to test Ante Covic with a header off a Sterjovski corner but unfortunately it clipped the crossbar. The game didn't live up to much during the next 20 minutes but on 37 minutes Glory's task was made tougher when Liam Miller was given a straight red card for denying a goal scoring opportunity, although Bas Van Den Brink was there to cover for the Irishmen. Hernandez's follow up free-kick just went wide yet again of the Glory goal.

Four minutes later Brazilian fullback Fabio made a run down the left before unleashing at Vukovic but his shot was comfortably saved after a deflection.

Second-half started fairly slow with both teams adjusting to half-time substitutes. Marco Rojas had come on for Matthew Kemp and Mile Sterjovski made way for Steven McGarry.

The game was changed on 52 minutes as referee Chris Beath awarded Victory a penalty after Thompson went down, although Bas Van Den Brink easily won the ball. By the letter of the law the Dutch defender should have been sent off as he was last man, however no card was given. Hernandez sent Vukovic the wrong way to open the scoring.

Five minutes later Danny Allsopp made it 2-0. Carlos Hernandez's corner was headed down by Rodrigo Vargas but Josh Mitchell fresh-aired on the edge of the six yard box before Danny Allsopp turned and finished



MELBOURNE Victory	Match Stats	PERTH GLORY
3	Saves	1
3	Attempts on target	5
7	Attempts off target	10
53%	Possession	47%
6	Corners	8
0	Offsides	4
14	Fouls committed	16

Victory keeper Ante Covic is at full stretch but is unable to prevent Andrezinho's curling free kick from making its way to the postage stamp area of the goal. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

past Vukovic. Allsopp's first goal since January in the A-League.

On 60 minutes Adam Hughes for the visitors tried to grab one goal back but his long range strike went straight into the hands of Ante Covic.

On 68 minutes Andrezinho came on and made an instant impact. Only three minutes later he scored a stunning, curling free-kick into the top corner to make it 2-1. Covic did however get a hand to it as he dived into the top corner.

Perth were back into the contest as Steven McGarry's strike on 74 minutes was headed up into the air by Vargas. Covic was then fouled as Smeltz tried to win the ball in the

air.

On 87 minutes Perth scored a late, late equaliser through Shane Smeltz after substitute Todd Howarth's brilliant cross was headed home by the unmarked Kiwi forward.

Smeltz could have won it in the second minute of stoppage time as he threw himself at the ball looking for a winner but couldn't make any contact.

Victory countered and went straight up the other end as Danny Allsopp's ball was headed over by Archie Thompson.

2-2 it finished with Victory fans jeering the Referee and throwing bottles onto the field. Melbourne Victory coach Mehmet Durak-

ovic was disappointed with his team's performance. "Yeah, disappointing. We were winning two-nil then all of a sudden we gave the ball away in the last twenty minutes and then a free-kick goes in and you are under pressure. So I am very disappointing not to get the three points at home because we need to get as many points at home as we can. We have the next four out of five games at home and we need to be picking up points."

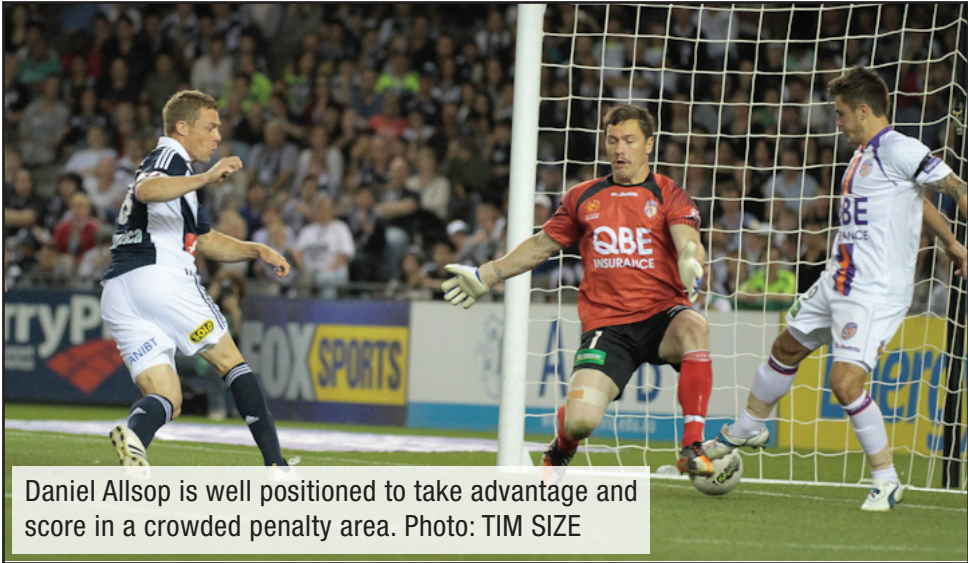
Perth Glory coach Ian Ferguson was happy with the players after the situation they were in. "Obviously with certain situations, we were 2-0 down, man sent off, penalty which I don't think was a penalty so it looked

like the world was against us at one point. To come back from two-nil down to Melbourne at home and to get a point at least shows great character and determination for the boys which I was really pleased with" Ian Ferguson also voiced his opinion on the penalty kick. "I can clearly see it's not a penalty-kick and I think everybody else sees that. But that is Football, sometimes decisions go for you or against you."

Melbourne Victory take on Gold Coast United next Sunday afternoon at AAMI Park and Perth travel to Suncoast to take on the all conquering Brisbane Roar.



Liam Miller can't believe his eyes and is ordered off for an early bath. Photo: TIM SIZE



Daniel Allsopp is well positioned to take advantage and score in a crowded penalty area. Photo: TIM SIZE



Shane Smeltz makes his point after a late equaliser shared the spoils for Glory. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Archie Thompson And Adrian Leijer run to embrace Daniel Allsopp after taking early control. Photo: ANITA MILAS





## Adelaide Utd Line Up

- Eugene Galekovic (gk)
- Osama Malik
- Nigel Boogaard
- Jon McKain (c)
- Zenon Caravella
- Evgeniy Levchenko
- Dario Vidosic
- Bruce Djite
- Antony Golec
- Ricardo Da Silva
- Cameron Watson
- Spase Dilevski
- Iain Ramsay
- Fabian Barbiero
- Francisco Uusucar
- Milan Susak
- Nick Munro (gk)
- \*two to be omitted\*

In: Evgeniy Levchenko (returns from injury), Antony Golec (promoted), Milan Susak (returns from injury)

Out: Cassio (ankle – indefinite)

Unavailable: Daniel Mullen (international duty), Sergio Van Dijk (calf – 1 week), Mark BIRIGHITTI (gk) (international duty)

## Adelaide United v Newcastle Jets

Fri 25 Nov Hindmarsh Stdm 8pm

By Nat Adamopoulos

If ever there was an opportunity begging to be taken advantage of, its this week's match between Adelaide United and Newcastle Jets and the damaging wound Jets Coach Gary Van Egmond could inflict on the Reds.

With less than convincing performances this season, injury woes and what looks to be unrest within the club, Adelaide are looking at an ominous period that could define the rest of the season for the troubled club.

With recent injuries to experienced players in Sergio Van Dijk and Cassio, the attacking sting in the side looks more like a dull numbness as things are heating up in the Coolen stables. Adding to the injury woes, the recent undisciplined behaviour of Andwele Slory has now escalated to the point of the Dutchman leaving the club sighting a business venture back home as the reason. But to those on the outside it seems something's rotten in Hindmarsh and the fans want to know what it is.

On the flip side of this it's the perfect opportunity for the Jet's boss to show what he and his chargers are made of and grab some much needed success that the side has just been missing out on. Despite being unable to secure three-points against Brisbane Roar last week, Van Egmond was happy with the team's performance and is hoping they can bring the same mentality into Friday's game. "We were happy in regards to the performance, attitude and work ethic that we brought to the game last weekend but again we didn't get any points out of it and the players were disappointed



## Reds prepare for Jets battle

Radio broadcaster: 891 ABC Adelaide / 1233 ABC Newcastle

Odds: AUFC 2.27 Draw 3.30 Jets 3.40

Head-to-Head: All matches (played 19): Adelaide United wins 8, Newcastle Jets wins 6

with that. We have to ensure we bring the same attitude and mentality into our game against Adelaide."

Past history shows of the 30 times these two sides have faced each other, the Reds definitely have the upper hand, taking full points in 16 of those games, to the Jets 6 times with Hindmarsh Stadium not being kind to the visitors. Van Egmond would also be the first to admit that their away game form has a lot left to be desired but would agree that this is the time if any to change the balance of the scales and he's definitely got the cattle to do it. The gutsy performance against the reigning champions last week has given the side some much needed invigoration which they hope to

build on with an effort that could silence their critics when they take on the under-performing Reds at home.

The Jets will be without young gun and 50 gamer Ben Kantarovski after being called into the Australian Under 23's team to play Uzbekistan on Sunday for the AFC Asian Qualifiers but have the return of Matthew Nash, taking his place between the sticks replacing courageous Ben Kennedy after he was ruled unfit to play due to the injury he sustained in the collision of Saturday's game. For both sides, consistency is the key to getting wins on the board and turn around their seasons so far. Adelaide has the opportunity to leap frog the Jets if they manage to muster up a win, but it

will be a difficult game for them and one that will draw on everyone putting in a valiant and strong performance.

Perhaps The Reds can get some inspiration from the Adelaide Zoo's Pandas as they will display the 'Panda' logo on the front of the playing shorts for the match to build further awareness and exposure of the Adelaide Zoo and the pandas. The initiative is not based on any financial outcome but as a means of exposure and reinforcing Adelaide United's strategic direction - 'Our Team, Our State'.

**Kiss of Death Adelaide 3-1 Jets**



## Jets Line Up

- Taylor Regan
- Nikolai Topor-Stanley
- Tiago Calvano
- Kasey Wehrman
- Jeremy Brockie
- Michael Bridges
- Ruben Zadkovich
- Tarek Elrich
- Jobe Wheelhouse (c)
- Sung-Hwan Byun
- Labinot Haliti
- James Virgili
- Matthew Nash (gk)
- Ali Abbas
- Ryan Griffiths
- Francis Jeffers
- Jacob Pepper
- Jack Duncan (gk)
- \*three to be omitted\*

In: 5. Tiago Calvano, 9. Michael Bridges (returns from illness), 17. James Virgili (promoted), 19. Matthew Nash (gk), 22. Ali Abbas (promoted)

Out: 1. Ben Kennedy (gk), 6. Ben Kantarovski

Unavailable: 1. Ben Kennedy (concussion), 6. Ben Kantarovski (U23s duty)



## Mariners Line Up

- Daniel McBreen
- Joshua Rose
- Pedj Bojic
- Brad Porter
- Patrick Zwaanswijk
- John Hutchinson
- Rostyn Griffiths
- Bernie Ibini
- Adriano Pellegrino
- Troy Hearfield
- Michael McGlinchey
- Trent Sainsbury
- Alex Wilkinson
- Matt Simon
- Justin Pasfield (Gk)
- Sam Gallagher
- Mustafa Amini
- Nathan Denham (Gk)
- \*three to be omitted\*

In: 5. Brad Porter (Promoted), 16. Trent Sainsbury (Promoted), 21. Sam Gallagher (Promoted)

Out: Nil

Unavailable: 1. Mathew Ryan (Qantas Australian Under 23 duty – 1 week), 11. Oliver Bozanic (Qantas Australian Under 23 duty – 1 week), 13. Stuart Musialik (Adductor – 1 week), 15. Brad McDonald (Qantas Australian Under 23 duty – 1 week), 23. Adam Kwasnik (Ankle – 1 week)

## CC Mariners v Melbourne Heart

Sat 26 Nov Bluetongue Stdm 5:30pm

By Adrian Deans

The Heart have won two in a row and the Mariners have rediscovered their mojo.

Two teams in good form and finding their confidence - this will be a wonderful game.

In the red corner: despite the loss of their key Olyroos, the Heart played some excellent attacking football last week to unpack the Gold Coast. With better finishing by Maycon and Germano, the game might have been put to bed by half time, but Matt Thompson scored and created goals to beat Jungschlager's excellent strike for the Gold Coast.

A narrow win, but the Heart were much the better team. Babalj and Fred are fantastic players and with David Williams yet to really hit his straps and the Olyroos to return, they have a hell of a lot of improvement in them.

In the blue and yellow corner, the Mariners are finally looking like the team that pushed Brisbane to the wire last season. Missing Perez and Amini, the Mariners have struggled to reproduce the cutting edge in the final third that set them apart from all others (except Brisbane) in Season 6. But somehow they've adapted. Graham Arnold has found a way of resetting the deckchairs, getting different performances out of (in



## Mojo's rising for Mariners and Heart

Odds: Mariners 1.78 Draw 3.75 Heart 5.00

Head-to-Head: All matches (played 3): Central Coast Mariners wins 2, Melbourne Heart wins 0 (1 draw)

Radio broadcaster: Coast FM (Gosford) 96.3 FM / 1116 SEN (Melbourne) / 774 ABC (Melbourne)

particular Daniel McBreen and Matt Simon.

McBreen has been the one to drop back into the number 10 role, despite that not being his natural game, and provide a conduit to the strikers. Matt Simon has been obliged to drop deeper and collect the ball earlier than he would usually get it and that combination has really started to pay dividends. In fact, so well is Simon suddenly playing that I'm going to stick my neck and nuts on the line and nominate him as a dark horse for the dead rubber against Saudi

Arabia. Josh Rose will also have his hand up for that.

Amini was effective last week, coming on at the hour mark, and it won't be long before he starts. The more time he gets, the more creativity the Mariners have at the front of the final third. Their entire team are suddenly playing very well – keeping the ball for long periods and getting in behind when it suits them.

Like the Heart, the Mariners will have returning Olyroos. Mat Ryan should go straight back into the team but Olie Bozanic may have to work his way

back from the bench.

They deserve their second spot on the table but I expect the Heart to be their biggest test since Brisbane in Round 1.

*Adrian Deans is the author of Mr Cleansheets – published by Vulgar Press, distributed by Dennis Jones and Associates and available in all good book stores. ebook also available at [www.mrcleansheets.com](http://www.mrcleansheets.com)*

**Kiss of Death Mariners 1-1 Heart**

## MELBOURNE HEART



## Heart Line Up

- Clint BOLTON (gk)
- Michael MARRONE
- Brendan HAMILL
- Simon COLOSIMO
- FRED (c)
- Matt THOMPSON
- Rutger WORM
- Kristian SARKIES
- MAYCON
- Wayne SRHOJ
- Jonatan GERMANO
- David WILLIAMS
- Aziz BEHICH
- Curtis GOOD
- Eli BABALJ
- Adrian MADASCHI
- Sebastian MATTEI (gk)
- \*two to be omitted\*

In: Kristian SARKIES (promoted), Aziz BEHICH (returns from international duty)  
Out: Nil

Unavailable: Nick Kalmar (Back – 4 weeks), Kliment Taseski (Foot – long term), Kamal Ibrahim (Ankle – 2 weeks), Alex Terra (Hamstring – 1-2 weeks), Jason Hoffman (international duty), Mate Dugandzic (international duty)

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## Roar Line Up

1. Michael Theoklitos (GK)
2. Matt Smith (Capt.)
3. Shane Stefanutto
5. Ivan Franjic
6. Erik Paaratlu
7. Besart Berisha
8. Massimo Murodocca
10. Henrique
11. Issey Nakajima-Farran,
16. Mohamed Adnan
18. Luke Brattan
19. Jack Hingert
21. James Meyer
22. Thomas Broich
30. Matt Acton (GK).

In: Nil

Out: Nil

Unavailable: 9. Kofi Danning (International duty), 4. Matt Jurman (International duty), 17. Mitch Nichols (International duty), 20 Andrew Redmayne (abdominal injury – 3 weeks)

## Brisbane Roar v Perth Glory

Sat 26 Nov Suncorp Stadium 7:45pm

By Jarrod Ellis

After 35 games and over a year of football Brisbane Roar stands on the verge of history this weekend. Having equalled the undefeated streak of Rugby League's Eastern Suburbs last weekend with their win over the Jets, the Roar will move into solitary territory if they can avoid defeat against Perth at Suncorp Stadium this Saturday.

That win over Newcastle has seen Brisbane jump six points clear at the top and in good form heading into this weekend. With 20 rounds remaining the Roar will no doubt be hoping their streak can continue as there's still plenty of ground to travel in the A-League title race.

Perth on the other hand sit in fourth position on the ladder, having suffered a disappointing set of results after a bright start to the season, but looked to have got back on track last weekend with their gutsy 2-2 draw with Melbourne Victory.

Perth defender Bas Van den Brink has already indicated to the media this week his team's desire to not be entered into the history books as game 36.

"For all the players and the coaches it's probably already some sort of an inspiration," said van den Brink from Brisbane on Wednesday.

"It's on everybody's mind from the Roar and also on our mind, for them to probably get the record and for us to stop them."



Odds: Roar 1.60  
Draw 4.10 Glory 6.00

## Record beckons for Roar

Head to Head:  
All matches (played 18): Brisbane Roar wins 11, Perth Glory wins 3 (4 draws)

"We watched the Newcastle Jets game against the Roar and I think it's probably a bit of jealousy that everybody was in favour of the Newcastle Jets, to stop their unbeaten streak."

"For all the players and the coaches it's probably already some sort of an inspiration," said van den Brink from Brisbane on Wednesday.

"It's on everybody's mind from the Roar and also on our mind, for them to probably get the record and for us to stop them."

"We watched the Newcastle Jets game against the Roar and I think it's probably a bit of jealousy that everybody

was in favour of the Newcastle Jets, to stop their unbeaten streak."

If the Glory are to leave Brisbane with a win they'll need to do so without Liam Miller, suspended after his red card last weekend, and also likely without fellow midfielder Mile Sterjovski currently back in Perth awaiting the birth of his child.

Importantly though for Perth their defence will be at full strength for a fixture that has averaged five goals a game over their past six encounters.

Brisbane will go into the match without any notable injuries or suspensions, however Kofi Danning, Mitch Nichols and Matthew Jurman will all be absent

due to selection in the Australian U23 squad taking on Uzbekistan this weekend in an Olympic qualifier.

2011-12 signings Issey Nakajima-Farran and Mohammed Adnan will be looked to for cover for the loss of Nichols and Jurman whilst the usual spark of the bench provided by Danning should be ably covered by James Meyer if he can produce a similar impact to that which he provided in the Newcastle match last weekend.

Kiss of Death  
Roar 2-1 Glory



## Glory Line Up

- 1.Danny VUKOVIC (gk)
- 2.Josh MITCHELL
- 3.Bas van den BRINK
- 4.Billy MEHMET
- 6.Chris COYNE
- 7.Jacob BURNS (c)
- 8.Adam HUGHES
- 9.Shane SMELTZ
- 14.Steven McGARRY
- 15.Tommy AMPHLETT
- 17.Todd HOWARTH
18. Jesse MAKAROUNAS
- 19.Josh RISDON
25. Trent McCLENAHAN
- 27.ANDREZINHO
30. Lewis ITALIANO (gk)

\*one to be omitted\*

In: 15.Tommy AMPHLETT, 18.Jesse MAKAROUNAS, 25.Trent McCLENAHAN (all promoted)  
Out: 10.Liam MILLER (suspended – 1 week), 21.Mile STERJOVSKI (wife giving birth)

Unavailable: 5.Steve PANTELIDIS (Achilles), 10.Liam MILLER (suspended – 1 week), 11.Victor SIKORA (hip – long term injury list), 12.Scott NEVILLE (knee), 13.Travis DODD (hamstring- 3 weeks),16.Evan BERGER (hamstring – 6-weeks), 20.Neil YOUNG (abdominal), 21.Mile STERJOVSKI (wife giving birth)



## Phoenix Line Up

1. Mark Paston (GK)
2. Manny Muscat
3. Tony Lochhead
4. Brent Griffiths
6. Tim Brown
7. Leo Bertos
8. Paul Ifill
9. Chris Greenacre
11. Daniel
12. Nicky Ward
13. Niko Tsattalios
15. Cameron Lindsay
17. Vince Lia
18. Ben Sigmund
20. Tony Warner (GK)
22. Andrew Durante (C)
24. Alex Smith

\*two to be omitted\*

In: Cameron Lindsay (promoted), Niko Tsattalios (promoted).

Out: Nil

Unavailable: Lucas Pantelis (knee injury - indefinite), Jimmy Downey (knee injury – 2 to 3 weeks), Dani Sanchez (groin injury – 1 to 2 weeks), Mirjan Pavlovic (broken arm – 1 week).

## Wellington Phoenix v Sydney FC

Sun 27 Nov Westpac Stdm 2:30pm

ByJoe Gallagher

Wellington is again the Phoenix's home this week as they play host to visitors Sydney FC on Sunday.

The home side sit second-bottom on the A-League ladder, off the back of a dull draw against Adelaide United at Eden Park in Auckland, while Sydney lies second-equal with Central Coast Mariners – by whom they were beaten at home last Saturday – behind runaway leaders Brisbane Roar.

And the fortress of Westpac Stadium – which, in the past, might have been the decisive factor – is a fortress no more. Phoenix have won just once there this season, and are without a point in their last two outings in New Zealand's capital.

Sydney, on the other hand, have been flying high this term, led by an on-form Nick Carle and their marquee winter signing Brett Emerton, and will come into this game high on confidence.

They have also been spurred into action by the words of coach Viteslav Lavicka. The Czech, unimpressed with his side's performance last weekend, has demanded a higher work rate and more potency in attack – two very dangerous signs for the Phoenix.

And it's an improvement up front that's needed for the Sky Blues. Aside from Carle, Sydney's predominant strikers – Bruno Cazarine and Mark Bridge – have scored just two goals between them this season. And Lavicka has only made them hungrier by lumping



Head-to-Head: All matches (played 13): Wellington Phoenix wins 4, Sydney FC wins 8 (1 draw)

Radio broadcaster:  
The Radio Network (Wellington) 1035AM

## Phoenix await Sky Blue visit

Odds: Phoenix 2.75  
Draw 3.30 SFC 2.75

more pressure upon them midweek, hinting at the possibility of including both Terry Antonis and Juho Makela in the matchday squad.

Meanwhile, Wellington's most encouraging sign from their lacklustre draw at Eden Park was the return of exciting attacker Paul Ifill – whose inclusion into the last half hour of the match against Adelaide proved to be the difference between a loss and a point for the hosts.

Ifill's return to fitness is followed by the return of Vince Lia and the possible showing of Mirjan Pavlovic but is only a small victory against the side's injury woes. The availability of the two

is hampered by the ongoing absence of Spanish midfielder Dani Sanchez – who may well have staked a claim on Wellington's best player in the early parts of this season.

But the end result is that for the first time this season, Ricki Herbert has several genuine attacking options, with Pavlovic, Ifill, Chris Greenacre and Alex Smith to possibly provide much-needed firepower up front. Whether coach Ricki Herbert will opt to play Pavlovic and Smith up front at all, or whether Ifill can last the full ninety minutes, however, remains to be seen.

And with the history books favouring

Sydney too – they have won seven of their last eight matches against Wellington – and the seeming invincibility of Westpac Stadium recently demolished, Sydney have as good a chance as ever to keep in touch with the league leaders with three points. Wellington, on the other hand, will be desperate for points to avoid an early tussle with the wooden spoon, and to inject some much needed impetus into a stuttering campaign so far.

Kiss of Death  
Phoenix 1-1 SFC



## Sydney FC Line Up

1. Liam Reddy
3. Jamie Coyne,
4. Pascal Bosschaart
5. Michael Beauchamp
6. Hirofumi Moriyasu
7. Brett Emerton
8. Karol Kisel
9. Bruno Cazarine
10. Nick Carle
12. Shannon Cole
15. Terry McFlynn (c)
17. Terry Antonis
18. Juho Makela
19. Mark Bridge
20. Ivan Necevski
21. Scott Jamieson

\*one to be omitted\*

Ins: Nil

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: Nil

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## Victory Line Up

3. Fabio  
4. Petar Franjic  
6. Leigh Broxham  
9. Jean Carlos Solorzano  
10. Archie Thompson  
11. Marco Rojas  
12. Rodrigo Vargas  
13. Diogo Ferreira  
14. Billy Celeski  
15. Tom Pondeljak  
16. Carlos Hernandez  
17. Jimmy Jeggo  
18. Danny Allsopp  
19. Isaka Cernak  
20. Lawrence Thomas (GK)  
21. Ante Covic  
22. Harry Kewell  
23. Adrian Leijer (c)  
\*three to be omitted\*

In: 22. Harry Kewell (returns from injury), 19. Isaka Cernak (promoted)

Out: 30. Zaim Zeneli (GK) (omitted), 7. Matthew Kemp (muscle strain)

Unavailable: 1. Tando Velaphi (stress fracture), 8. Grant BREBNER (calf), 2. Matthew Foschini (Olyroos)

## Melbourne Victory v Gold Coast United

By John Clark

Two managers under immense scrutiny face off this weekend when Miron Bleiberg's Gold Coast travel to AAMI Park to meet Mehmet Durakovic's Melbourne Victory.

The Victory is a club who have always demanded success, and expectations coming into this season were at an all time high. With an attacking arsenal to rival any ever assembled in the A-League, it was expected that Durakovic would have his side playing a free flowing fluent style of football with plenty of goals at either end of the park.

On the contrary the Victory's glut of attacking options have lacked imagination and creativity and the side has been regularly bailed out by goalkeeper Ante Covic. There is however always one exception to the rule, and that man is Archie Thompson who has played some part in all six Victory goals this season.

Durakovic has tinkered with his formations on a weekly basis, stating the team needs time to 'gel', but Melbourne Victory supporters are growing impatient and significant improvement will have to be shown in the coming weeks. Another man under the pump is Miron Bleiberg who saw his side slump to their 3rd consecutive loss against the Melbourne



## Pressure's on Victory and Gold Coast

Heart last weekend. Gold Coast has shown moments of brilliance in each of those three games, but unfortunately it's the inconsistency within a game that is costing them. Some may say that the Gold Coast were unlucky last weekend after hitting the woodwork twice, but the Heart created enough clear cut chances to edge the contest.

This match will be the Victory's first at AAMI Park this season, which might come as a relief considering they are still yet to garner a win at Etihad this campaign. The last time these sides met the Gold Coast finished

Sun 27 Nov AAMI Park 5:00pm

Head-to-Head: All matches (played 7): Melbourne Victory wins 4, Gold Coast United wins 3 (0 draws)

Odds:  
Victory 1.87 Draw 3.50  
Gold Coast 4.50

Radio broadcaster: 1116 SEN (Melbourne) / 774 ABC (Melbourne)



## Gold Coast Line Up

1. Glen Moss [gk]  
2. Josh Brillante  
3. Michael Thwait (c)  
4. Zac Anderson  
5. Kristian Rees  
6. Paul Beekmans  
7. Golgol Mbrahtu  
10. Tahj Minniecon  
11. Jake Barker-Daish  
12. Dylan Macallister  
14. Ben Halloran  
15. Adama Traore  
16. Maceo Rigtters  
17. Chris Harold  
20. Jerrad Tyson [gk]  
21. Daniel Severino  
22. Peter Jungschlager  
28. Daniel Bowles  
29. Mitch Bevan.  
\*four to be omitted\*

In: 10. Tahj Minniecon (promoted), 11. Jake Barker-Daish (promoted), 14. Ben Halloran (return from knee injury), 28. Daniel Bowles (promoted).  
Out: None.

Unavailable: 9. Joel Porter (calf – 4 weeks), 13. Ante Rozic (knee – 3 weeks), 19. Chris Broadfoot (ankle injury – 6 weeks).



## Robert Di Fabio

Another eventful week has transpired within Australian football on and off the pitch. We've seen some scintillating goals that would rival the highlights reel from the best leagues around the sphere, controversy again surrounding the officials, a bumper crowd in Auckland, Brisbane Roar continuing to rewrite the record books, casualties behind closed doors and much more.

On the field, Melbourne Heart exemplified their cavernous depth – with Mate Dugandzic, Jason Hoffman and Aziz Behic away on Olyroos duties – overcoming a resolute Gold Coast United outfit in Surfers Paradise. The win is the club's second in a row, reviving optimism throughout the team's finals prospects.

Wellington Phoenix salvaged a late equaliser against Adelaide United to have a share the spoils, in a fixture played in front of an enthusiastic Auckland public. Meanwhile, Brisbane Roar put its critics to bed, once again, with a tantalising display in a come from behind victory to equal the Australian club record for most consecutive games unbeaten.

secutive games unbeaten.

The Central Coast Mariners got the better of their Sydney rivals triumphing in a five-goal thriller, which witnessed exceptional goals from free kicks - Dutchman Patrick Zwaanswijk and Socceroo Brett Emerton trekking their strikes into the back of the net. Last but not least, Melbourne Victory's tumultuous season continued, yielding a two-goal advantage to ultimately draw against a 10-man Perth Glory.

Let's discuss some of the chief talking points inundated throughout the A-League.

### Brisbane Roarsome

And so, the outfit situated in south-east Queensland has rewritten history yet again, this time equalling a long-standing 74-year-old record held by the Eastern Suburbs (renamed Sydney Roosters) rugby league club from 1936-37. Brisbane Roar, in sensational fashion, equalled the long-standing record by going 35 games unbeaten – showing immense character and fortitude, nullifying a one-goal deficit, to ultimately triumph 2-1 over the Newcastle Jets in the Hunter Valley.

There is no surprise that many pundits throughout the media, in conjunction with the football community believe this Brisbane team – under the tutorship of Ange Postecoglou – is the best football side to grace the domestic game in Australia.

Time and time again, the Roar has illustrated its mental capacity, along with the technical and tactical nous to continually produce an elevated level of excellence. Some have stated that the Roar have been lucky on occasion, however it is no secret that any top-draw team creates their own fortune. How often do we witness prominent clubs in the vein of Manchester United or Inter Milan produce late winner's in stoppage time, or that equaliser against the odds? Quality and superiority will, in due course convey its own luck.

Postecoglou has implemented a football philosophy which heavily relies on team unity and an incredible constituent of discipline. The cattle assembled in this side need to work to the game-style – ball retention, patience and a team mentality are essentially the fundamental components on how this teams functions effectively – to be deemed successful.

On Saturday night, Brisbane Roar has an incredible opportunity to break the longest club unbeaten streak in Australia, when it entertains Perth Glory at Suncorp Stadium. Hopefully the city joins forces with the Roar, as a momentous occasion beckons.

### Auckland gets behind the Wellington Phoenix:

An energetic crowd of 20,078 witnessed a late revival from the home side, to draw level with Adelaide United at Eden Park,

Auckland. While vast turmoil surrounded the Phoenix only months earlier, it was fantastic to witness such a boisterous and rather large turnout at hand to New Zealand's largest city.

After the demise of New Zealand Knights at the conclusion of the 2006-07 A-League campaign, Auckland has been starved of top-flight football. The Knights were, in many respects a shambles. The product on display was mediocre, consequently turning fans away from the turnstiles. The name "New Zealand" didn't appeal to the locals, with little emotional connection between the club and its city. The formula was bound for failure.

With an exceptional crowd to watch Wellington Phoenix in Auckland, many have pondered at the notion of someday bringing in an expansion team to Auckland. While the idea may appear farfetched, it really isn't a concept beyond belief. Perceptibly the allure of an A-League game in Auckland was an integral element for a large crowd over the weekend – with a novelty type factor playing its role.

However, if the blueprint is drawn in an effective manner then this city, with a population of 1.3 million – in contrast Wellington occupy's just shy of 400,000 residents – can be a beneficiary to the A-League. An emotional correlation between the club and its city is integral for success. A name such as "Auckland City" for instance, will automatically compel the public

as its club.

While the A-League's short to medium-term objectives are to obtain sustainability and financial remedy within the 10-club system, a second team in New Zealand could well come into fruition – if the investment is applicable and strategic planning is astute.

### Victory Surrendered

The biggest and most successful club in the A-League's six-year history is still grappling to find its best playing formula. Last weekend, Victory served up an under-par performance and surrendered a two-goal advantage against a 10-man Perth Glory, to ultimately share the spoils courtesy of a clinical header from striker Shane Smeltz near the death.

While the nature of the result was a cause for concern, it was the manner of Victory's game-style which left fans frustrated. Melbourne was in many periods sluggish in its performance, and illustrated signs of a team struggling to work collectively as a unit, which embattled to encompass cohesion and fluency.

Against the Glory, Melbourne looked a shadow of its former self, playing second fiddle to an undermanned team, on its home-turf – a sight rarely seen in its short, but proud history.

The game structure under Durakovic's reign has thus far – with the exception of the team's commendable Asian Champions league campaign

- been rather stagnant.

The transition from defence to attack is leisurely; no penetration in the final third, ball retention is given up far too easily and an ostensibly vast reliance on individual magic to save the team's grace.

The campaign has also raised eyebrows with the departure of Director of Football Francis Awaritefe on Tuesday after only a few months in the job. Awaritefe's role was primarily a long-term vision, to implement a structure for the club's youth system and playing philosophy that would be transferred through the various ranks throughout the club. Victory has obtained a reputation as being the most professionally run club, with an emphasis on stability throughout its hierarchy - no doubt the search continues to rectify that side of the football department.

Despite ongoing early season challenges facing the club, the blue and white of Melbourne remarkably, only sit three points behind second place – currently in seventh position. Accordingly, it is not all doom and gloom for the two-time champions, however immense pressure will be on Durakovic to implement a sound football ethos and importantly revitalise morality for the Victorian based outfit. The resurrection begins on Sunday, against cellar dweller Gold Coast United at AAMI Park.

Follow Robert on Twitter @RobertDiFabio



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**COLOUR BLIND**  
THE Round 7 A-League clash between the Jets and Brisbane Roar was great entertainment for spectators but for the TV viewer, the clash of dark colours made it very difficult to distinguish players when the camera wasn't closely focussing on them.

Admittedly, the sun can be a problem at Ausgrid Stadium but this isn't the first time colours have clashed so it's time for the FFA and the clubs to look at playing strips which are appropriate for TV coverage.

**SQUARE PEG IN A ROUND HOLE**  
FOX Sports FC is regarded as the major weekly program reviewing the

A-League.  
However, it's only the valiant efforts of Mark Bosnich and Andy Harper which are holding the program together right now.

I don't think that the experiment in replacing Simon Hill with general sporting commentator Andy Maher is working as yet.

I think Maher is doing his best but for mine he comes across as being on a steep learning curve when it comes to our sport.

There are many former Socceroos such as John Kosmina who could do this job with their eyes closed.

I also think that it would also be wise for Mel McLaughlin to read all the latest news at the start of the program,

rather than at intervals during the first half hour.  
This would allow the conversation about aspects of the game to flow more smoothly.

**MLS FINAL COMMENTARY**  
WHAT a pleasure to see football in the USA thriving with a packed house at the Home Depot Stadium during the LA v Houston clash. How lucky ESPN viewers were to have the expertise of Ian Darke, the former British SKY commentator, and John Harkes as the expert commentator. These guys don't state the obvious but only comment on what the viewer needs to know.

Darke's commentary is poetry in motion and he sets a great example for Australian commentators.

**MELBOURNE VICTORY**  
THERE are daggers out at Victory for the moment as the club strives to find the reason for its poor form. Some critics have stated that Victory has arguably the strongest squad in the A-League, which is hardly supported by this season's results and playing style.

Certainly, Perth Glory produced a fine performance with only 10 men to salvage



Kossie talks tactics with Robbie and Mel and describes how the Lunatics United took over Asylum FC...

vage a draw in Round 7 but the equalising goal was highlighted by the reluctance of Gabriel Hernandez to track Todd Howarth's run down the left and a poor attempt by Adrian Leijer to close Howarth down before he crossed the ball for Shayne Smeltz to head home. Mehmet Durakovic and Kevin Muscat, as former top-flight defenders, must have been incensed by this lack of basics and will obviously work closely with the offending players in the next few weeks.

The team certainly missed the creativity of Harry Kewell in this match.

**DEAD BALL EXPERTS**  
LAST Tuesday night on Fox Sports FC, a lot of praise was reserved for the brilliant goals scored from free-kicks in Round 7.

Andy Harper, in trying to remember dead-ball experts from the old NSL, could only recall Con Boutsianis. Just a few others worth a mention were Zlatko Nastevski (Marconi), Oscar Cрино (South Melbourne) Tony Henderson (Marconi) and Gary Cole (Heidelberg).



Meanwhile, one flew over the cuckoos nest in Hollywood...

**BRISBANE TO ROAR?**  
IT'S a big day this Saturday for the Roar as they take on Perth Glory in their attempt to achieve a record run of 36 matches.

The Glory will be out there to prove their great comeback against the Victory was not a once-off.

There should be a huge crowd at Suncorp Stadium to motivate the Roar but whatever the result, their football in the last two seasons has raised the bar in A-League standards.

May the best team win!!

FACE IN THE CROWD

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GW photographer Anita Milas was on hand to capture fans watching the 2-2 draw between Melbourne Victory and Perth last weekend at Etihad Stadium.

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**Indigenous State Carnival**  
Football Federation Victoria's (FFV) inaugural State Indigenous Football Carnival will kick off on Saturday 26th November at Jubilee Park, Ringwood between 10.30am - 5pm. The Carnival is part of FFV's Indigenous Football Development program, which aims to provide genuine opportunities within football through increased awareness and access to the game. FFV has partnered with the Victorian Government, Regan Millstein Foundation, Football Federation Australia, Leaders of Tomorrow, The National Indigenous Times, and Melbourne Heart and Melbourne Victory to present the carnival.

The Carnival is a celebration of Indigenous Victoria's contribution to football and will offer a range of cultural activities and experiences throughout the day. Participants are set to arrive at 10.30 for registrations and Wurundjeri elder Auntie Joy Wandin Murphy will open the day with a Welcome to Country, along with the Dean Sisters from the Western Region to perform the Australian National Anthem to get things underway.

There will be Hyundai A-League football players in attendance with Melbourne Victory's Grant Brebner presenting a Drug and Alcohol Education session on behalf of FFA and Melbourne Hearts Kamal Ibrahim contributing to the day.

PAST TO PUSH ROAR FORWARD

Brisbane Roar will take the confidence and character of last season's epic Hyundai A-League Grand Final into this Saturday's record-breaking clash against Perth Glory at Suncorp Stadium according to midfielder Erik Paartalu.

The Brisbane club are heading into the round eight fixture aiming to claim the all-time Australian undefeated streak across any football code.

Paartalu, one of only three Roar players to take part in all 35 matches across the undefeated run alongside captain Matt Smith and goalkeeper Michael Theoklitos, said the tremendous character shown by the side during the 120-minute thriller on March 13 was sure to serve them well yet again on the weekend.

Two goals down in extra time with just four minutes left on the clock, Brisbane kept pushing up the park, reducing the deficit through Henrique before Paartalu himself rose highest to meet a Thomas Broich corner and equalise with the last play of the game.

From then on, the Roar players never looked back and momentum took them forward to win the decider 4-2 on penalties.

"We had the same thing when we made the grand final," he said.

There was a lot of pressure on us then because we'd done so well all season but people weren't willing to give us the tag of being the best team until we'd won the grand final.

"We're used to pressure and especially playing at Suncorp, we're quite comfortable there.

"It's a big, nice pitch where we can knock the ball around and we'll go out there and play our usual football."

The Roar equalled the 74-year-old record last Saturday with a come-from-behind 2-1 victory against Newcastle Jets at Ausgrid Stadium.

The Hyundai A-League Champions were made to work hard for their three points, especially when a stomach bug forced Smith off the park, welcoming the make-shift central defensive pairing of Mohamed Adnan and Ivan Franjic.

This allowed former North Queensland Fury defender Jack Hingert to make his debut for the club at Franjic's usual right-back position and at the full-time

whistle, Brisbane were without up to five of their regular starters.

Paartalu admitted to nerves after his skipper was replaced but hailed the players who stepped in to make their contributions count.

"I personally felt more pressure last week against Newcastle because it was a very difficult game going away from home," he said.

"Circumstances went against us at half-time, 1-0 down and Smithy had to come off and there were a few things thrown at us.

"We reacted really, really strongly and I was very, very proud of that performance last week.

"It was great character shown by the boys and definitely I don't feel any pressure this week compared to last week."

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# CARLOS HERNANDEZ

## Melbourne Victory



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**FULL NAME:** Diogo Alexandre Alves Ferreira  
**BIRTHPLACE:** Footscray, Victoria  
**BIRTH DATE:** 05/10/1989  
**HEIGHT:** 1.80m  
**WEIGHT:** 74kg  
**MARRIED:** No  
**CAR:** VW Golf  
**NICKNAME:** Digs, Diogs  
**PREVIOUS CLUBS:** FC Porto, Green Gully  
**REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS:** Australian U/23 / Olympic Qualifiers  
**INDIVIDUAL HONOURS:** Clubman of the Year 10/11  
**TEAM HONOURS:** On the way!  
**CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO:** Luis Figo  
**FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER:** Xavi  
**FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER:** Rodrigo Vargas  
**FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO:** Vlado Bozinovski  
**FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO:** Tim Cahill  
**MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER:** 2-1 win over Mariners (New Years Eve)  
**MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN:** Portugal v England (Euro 2004)  
**MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED:** Against Jeju - Asian Champions League 2011  
**EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY:** Playing in the local park with my Dad and brother  
**FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL:** Essendon Royals v Brunswick Zebras - U/8 Cup Final  
**BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT:** Getting knocked out of the HAL finals 10/11  
**WORST INJURY:** Nothing (touch wood!)  
**MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT:** Kris Commons (Celtic)  
**FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND:** Bluetongue Stadium  
**SUPERSTITIONS:** Always going on the ground with my right boot first  
**TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL:** Steak and pasta (cooked by my Mum)  
**WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS:** Passing, fitness  
**WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES:** Left foot  
**FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP:** SL Benfica  
**FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS:** Table Tennis, Athletics  
**FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON:** O. Bolt  
**FAVOURITE FOODS:** Steak, rice, Milo & Nutri Grain Bars  
**FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS:** Adam Sandler  
**HOBBIES:** Fishing, T-tennis, Guitar, FIFA  
**FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT:** Bali  
**FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT:** My bed  
**IDEAL DATE:** Dinner and movies  
**FAVOURITE TV SHOWS:** Entourage, Criminal Minds  
**FAVOURITE MUSIC:** RnB, House, Reggae  
**FAVOURITE FILM:** Blood Diamond, 3 Ninja Series  
**LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT:** Portugal national team (Euro 2004)  
**BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER:** Definitely my Dad  
**BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER:** Losing  
**HOW CAN WE IMPROVE THE GAME:** Concentrating on developing youth  
**ADVICE TO YOUNGSTERS:** Never give up and follow your dreams  
**FOOTBALL AMBITION:** To play professionally for as long as possible  
**WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?** Jose Mourinho  
**YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S HAL:** Melbourne Victory!



Melbourne Victory FC  
**DIOGO FERREIRA**

PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

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# World at their feet at Knox

By Norm Edgar

Rain having set in overnight made for an interesting days play where teams would be afraid to make mistakes on a greasy pitch. The first game of the day between Italy and the Seychelles turned out to be the best game with action going from end to end. Italy had the more clear cut chances with the Seychelles not being able to get as many shots on goal. After an even first half Seychelles had better of second half but could not score. Against the run of play Italy scored when Simon Lamanda was able to find space and from a centre from the right scored the all important goal. The Seychelles missed a glorious opportunity to level when they were awarded

a penalty but Johnny Ash shot against the cross bar and Italy survived. Towards the end Italy had opportunities to seal the win but Robert D'Angelo and then Jordan Templin when having intercepted a back pass could not add to the score. Unfortunately what appeared to be a serious knee injury after a heavy challenge to Adrian Chila soured the win for the Italians In the Scotland v Chile game with the pitch getting heavier with the rain the first half was even which would have pleased both teams having already qualified for the quarter finals. Scotland scored early in the second half through Sean McIlroy and though Chile mounted a serious offensive they could not crack a Scotland defence well marshalled by Stuart Webster in goal.

Best players for Chile were Noel Bahnsen in defence and Dejan Radojicic in midfield. The third game of the day had Australia who needed to get at least a draw to finish top of Group 3 playing Peru who were only playing for pride having already been eliminated from the competition Peru went 1-0 up in the first half through Vicente Vasquez in the 20th minute but Australia soon imposed themselves and scored in the 24th minute from a penalty taken by Chas Di Petta given for a rash tackle after the Peru defence got in a tangle and then took the lead just before half time through Dejan Erakovic In the second half Australia was in control for the most part with Sasa Vranesevic up forward and Murat Kaliskan and Aleksandar Prodandanovic in defence performing well.

Australia had one great chance to increase their lead when Dejan Erakovic lobbed the ball over the Peru goalkeeper but it hit the crossbar and was punched clear. The final game of the day was a winner take all affair with both teams on the same points and goal difference but Albania having scored the most goals. In a reasonably tame affair two goal to Albania in the second half to Feston Azizi and Ali Osmani took Albania to the top of their group and into the quarter finals In summary Italy, Scotland, Chile, Australia and Albania qualified for next weeks quarter finals The Sunday games basically played out as scripted. Mauritius outplayed India in the first half and went to a 6-0 lead. India fought back in the second half to score two goals and finally lost 6-2. However both teams had not qualified for the quarter finals. Bosnia and Portugal played Serbia and Ireland respectively to determine who would join Ireland in the quarter finals. Bosnia qualified by beating Serbia after Serbia took the lead through Zoran Vukas. Bosnia fought back immediately and equalised through Fedza Softic. Four minutes into the second half a goal to Adem Alicovic put Bosnia ahead and Elvedin Klancevic made the game safe for Bosnia for a 3-1 win Portugal were in with a chance in the first half against Ireland with the score 2-1 to Ireland. However Ireland dominated the second half to win 6-2 with goals to Mark Leech who got two, two goals to James O'Sullivan and one each to Mark Newsome and Daragh Ryan. Liam Ryan got the two goals for Portugal The nail biter of the day was the Turkey versus Macedonia game which finished 2-2 with Turkey going through on a better goal difference. Turkey took the lead in the first half and lead at half time but Macedonia was able to share the points with two second half goals from Zare Tomovski. Erhan Karahan and Ahmet Turerscored for Turkey. Robby Najdovski played well for Macedonia and Kerim Kok and Soner Kul stood out for Turkey

Week Three Results

Italy 1-0 Seychelles  
India 2-6 Mauritius  
Scotland 1-0 Chile  
Serbia 1-3 Bosnia

Peru 1-2 Australia  
Turkey 2-2 Macedonia  
Albania 2-0 Romania  
Ireland 6-2 Portugal

Group 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Albania	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
Italy	3	2	0	1	3	4	6
Romania	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
Seychelles	3	1	0	2	3	4	3

Group 3	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	3	3	0	0	7	1	9
Turkey	3	1	1	1	8	5	4
Macedonia	3	1	1	1	6	8	4
Peru	3	0	0	3	5	12	0

Group 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ireland	3	3	0	0	1	5	9
Bosnia	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
Portugal	3	1	0	2	4	9	3
Serbia	3	0	0	3	3	12	0

Group 4	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	3	3	0	0	7	0	9
Chile	3	2	0	1	4	1	6
Mauritius	3	1	0	2	6	5	3
India	3	0	0	3	2	13	0

Quarter-final Draw

Saturday 26th November  
1.00 IRELAND V ITALY  
3.00 SCOTLAND V TURKEY

Sunday 27th November  
1.00 ALBANIA V BOSNIA  
3.00 AUSTRALIA V CHILE



Oner Simsek (Turkey) tumbles over the tackle by Jamie Ristevski (Macedonia).



Lou Koceski (Macedonia) beats the challenge by Koray Suat (Turkey) to get the ball away.



To be sure...Portugal keeper Michael Theocharous is too late to stop one of Ireland's 6 goals.



Zare Tomovski (Macdonia) gets in first for the 50-50 ball.



Ireland's Joe Ryan slides in to deny Portugla's Liam Ryan.



To be sure... Ireland's James O'Sullivan takes delight in lobbing the ball over Portugal keeper Michael Theocharous.



Couch Potato Dept.
\* ALL TIMES ARE AEDT



SBS ONE
Sunday November 27th
10:30 AM World Cup 2014 Magazine
11:00 AM Les Murray's Football Feature -
12:00 PM UEFA Champions League Magazine Program

Monday November 28th
04:30 PM FIFA Futbol Mundial
11:30 PM The World Game

Thursday 1st December
SBS ONE
06:45 AM UEFA Europa League - Matchday 5 Live

Friday 2nd December
SBS ONE
06:45 AM UEFA Europa League - Matchday 5 Live

SBS TWO
Monday November 28th
9:30 PM The World Game



Friday 18-Nov
Copa Sudamericana Quarter-Final 2nd Leg Libertad v LDU Quito 9:10am LIVE
Copa Sudamericana Quarter-Final 2nd Leg Universidad de Chile v Arsenal 11:40am LIVE

Saturday 19-Nov
Bundesliga Round 13 Kaiserslautern v Leverkusen 9:00am 1st Airing
Scottish Premier League Round 15 Inverness v Celtic 11:25pm LIVE

Sunday 20-Nov
Bundesliga Round 13 Bayern Munich v Dortmund 4:25am LIVE
Ligue 1 Round 14 Montpellier v Marseille 6:55am LIVE
Ligue 1 Round 14 Nice v St Etienne 11:30am 1st Airing
J-League Round 32 Shimizu S-Pulse v Kashiwa Reysol 3:00pm LIVE
Eredivisie Round 13 Heracles v Twente 6:40pm 1st Airing

Monday 21-Nov
Bundesliga Round 13 Stuttgart v Augsburg 4:00am 1st Airing
Ligue 1 Round 14 PSG v Nancy 6:55am LIVE
Primera Division Round 15 Boca Juniors v Racing 9:05am LIVE
Eredivisie Round 13 De Graafschap v PSV 1:45pm 1st Airing
Ligue 1 Round 14 Brest v Sochaux 3:30pm 1st Airing
Bundesliga Round 13 Hamburg v Hoffenheim 5:15pm 1st Airing

Tuesday 22-Nov
Eredivisie Round 13 Excelsior v AZ 2:45am 1st Airing
Blue Square Premier Round 20 Fleetwood v Stockport 12:45pm 1st Airing

Wednesday 23-Nov
Primera Division Round 15 Lanus v Arsenal 11:10am LIVE

Thursday 24-Nov
Copa Sudamericana Semi-Final 1st Leg Teams TBC 8:55am LIVE
Copa Sudamericana Semi-Final 1st Leg Teams TBC 11:45am LIVE



Saturday 26th November 2011
06:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights - Matchday 13

Sunday 27th November
06:00 am Arsenal TV

Tuesday 29th November
02:30 am Arsenal TV Arsenal V Fulham

Wednesday 30th November
02:30 am Liverpool TV Liverpool V Manchester City
05:30 am FA Cup Classics F.A. Cup Semi Final 1990/91 - Tottenham V Arsenal

Thursday 01st December
02:30 am Bundesliga Matchday 14: Borussia Dortmund V Schalke
04:30 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights Matchday 14
05:30 am FA Cup Classics F.A. Cup Final 1990/91 - Nottingham Forest V Tottenham

Friday 02nd December
03:30 am Serie A Matchday 13: Lazio V Juventus
05:30 am The Serie A Highlights Show - Matchday 13



ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE LIVE
Times listed are 7 minutes prior to kick-offs.

Table with 3 columns: Date, Match, Time. Rows include Sat Nov 26 Stoke v Blackburn, Sun Nov 27 Man Utd v Newcastle, Sun Nov 27 Chelsea v Wolves, Sun Nov 27 Bolton v Everton, Sun Nov 27 Norwich v QPR, Sun Nov 27 Sunderland v Wigan, Sun Nov 27 West Brom v Tottenham, Sun Nov 27 Arsenal v Fulham, Mon Nov 28 Swansea v Aston Villa, Mon Nov 28 Liverpool v Man City.

ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIVE
Sun Nov 27 FLC: West Ham v Derby 4.00 am
Tue Nov 29 Charlton v Huddersfield 6.30 am

OLYMPIC QUALIFIER
Sunday 27 November
Olyroos v Uzbekistan 7.00 pm

A-LEAGUE LIVE
Fri Nov 25 Adelaide v Newcastle 7.30 pm
Sat Nov 26 Mariners v Melb Heart 5.00 pm
Sat Nov 26 Brisbane v Perth 7.45 pm
Sun Nov 27 Wellington v Sydney 2.30 pm
Sun Nov 27 Melbourne v Gold Coast 5.00 pm

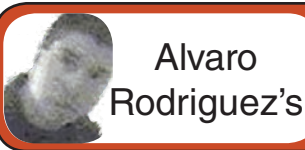


The Futbol Town Show
Every Tuesday 7pm

Extra Time Magazine Show
Every Tuesday 7.30pm

SMFC TV
Channel 31
Every Wed 7pm

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday 10.30am



NAME: Bolivia
CAPITALS: La Paz (administrative), Sucre (constitutional)
POPULATION: (2010 approx.) 10,907,778
CONFEDERATION: CONMEBOL
FIFA WORLD RANKING: 81st
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Copa America winners 1963, runners-up 1997
WORLD CUP APPEARANCES: 1930, 1950, 1994

WHO ARE YA?
The Plurinational State of Bolivia is situated in the centre of South America, landlocked and bordered by Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, Chile and Peru. Under Spanish colonial rule it was part of an administrative territory known as the Viceroyalty of Peru - what is now Bolivia itself was known as Upper Peru during its nearly-300-year dominion under Spain. The land's rich cultural traditions as a part of the fabled Inca Empire were ignored as the indigenous population were subjugated and sometimes even used as slave labour in the mineral trade (particularly silver and gold). In 1809, at the same period as similar calls for increased autonomy across Latin America rang out, Upper Peru declared its independence, but would spend the next 16 years embroiled in a bloody conflict with royalist sympathisers as well as opportunist incursions from neighbouring countries. Even so, when the fledgling republic renamed itself Bolivia in honour of 'The Great Liberator', Simón Bolívar in 1829, it soon joined with modern-day Peru in a confederate union which was eventually besieged by Chile and Argentina. Peru in turn broke free from this confederation and upon gaining sovereignty turned on Bolivia; the former allies technically remained at war until 1842. Bolivia then spent the next 100 years warding off territorial designs by her neighbours, and laying at the beck and call of dictatorial, right-wing regimes backed by the wealthy elite and foreign interests. Change was in the air following the 1952 electoral victory of the Revolutionary Nationalist Movement, the first time the political left had won power in the country's history. But it was not to be - the RMN was largely ineffective in consolidating their mass reform programs and militant agitation on both sides of the political spectrum remained strong. Moreover, the American CIA left nothing to chance upon hearing that Cuba's revolutionary hero, the Argentine 'Che' Guevara was in Bolivia in the mid-1960s hoping to emulate what he and Castro had done in

Planet Football
No.728 Bolivia



Que he hecho?...That's 'What Have I Done', as Marco is shown red

Cuba. Guevara was promptly captured and executed in a great propaganda boost against the spread of Communism, although this did not end covert American involvement in Bolivia's politics, which had descended into a shaky alliance-of-convenience between the leftist RMN and their right-wing adversaries. Throughout the '70s and '80s the chaos continued, until the relative respite of the '90s which, parallel to Venezuela's situation, eventually gave way to power in the hands of the socialist left, albeit led here by Evo Morales, whose presidency has been likened to that of his Venezuelan counterpart and fellow radical socialist Hugo Chavez.

SO WHAT YOU DONE?

Unlike Venezuela however, football has always been the top sporting-dog in Bolivia, and is one of an elite group of countries - participants in the first-ever World Cup in 1930. Put in Group 2 with Brazil and Yugoslavia, the Bolivians crashed out with 4-0 losses to each opponent. Perhaps understandably they declined to return for 1934 and shunned the inaugural classificatory WC in 1938. Nevertheless when the Bolivians returned to the WC fray in neighbouring Brazil in 1950 it was because of opponent withdrawals (notably Argentina). Duly grouped with France and Uruguay, the Bolivians only ended up playing their fellow South

Americans due to the French's own shock withdrawal - an 8-0 hiding to the eventual world champions. Afterward Bolivian football spent 44 years in the World Cup wilderness until their shock qualification for USA '94. Lumped in South American Group 2 with Brazil and Uruguay as the expected qualifiers, Bolivia put 14 goals past then-easybeats Venezuela in their two duels, but upset the formbook by beating Uruguay 3-1, and one of the red-letter days of South American football history: 25th of July 1993, when the Bolivians inflicted Brazil's first-ever World Cup qualifying loss, 2-0 in La Paz!! Nevertheless the Bolivians only just shaded the Uruguayans on the final ladder by a single point to get to the US, where they were drawn against world champs Germany, Spain and South Korea in Group C. The Bolivians hung with the Germans for an hour of the tournament opener before Jürgen Klinsmann's goal put paid to a fairytale upset. Next the Bolivians faced down the emerging South Koreans, and came away with a nil-all draw - the first-ever WC point for Bolivia and South Korea's second. Finally the clash against colonial motherland Spain ended in another loss, 3-1, although history was again made in the shape of Bolivia's first-ever WC goal, courtesy of Erwin Sánchez in the 67th minute. Despite hosting the 1997 Copa America in which they lost out to



Just in case the GPS ain't working...

Brazil, on top of their earlier 1963 tournament victory, Bolivian football soon entered an arresting slide in form and prestige, with the hard-won capital of 1994 unquestionably squandered.

BIG CLUBS

La Paz side The Strongest is the country's powerhouse with nearly 30 titles across several regional/national competitions, as well as 3 cups and 17 appearances in the Libertadores Cup, although they have never ventured further than the second round. Sadly however the club is also associated with the Viloco tragedy (known by some as 'South America's Munich disaster') in September 1969 - a plane carrying the team to play a friendly match crashed in the region of Viloco, killing all 69 passengers and 9 crew.

Other clubs of note include Real Potosí, Club Blooming and Oriente Petrolero.

REP YOUR COLORS

Known as La Verde 'The Green', the Bolivian NT plays in green and white, either colour given more predominance in the kit design at one time or another.

MATCHWINNERS

Marco Etcheverry, nicknamed 'El Diabolo', is without doubt the country's greatest-ever player. Apart from winning 71 caps for the national team, he made his name whilst at Chilean giants Colo Colo before moving on to Colombia's América de Cali and then the MLS' DC United; he also had a stint with Albacete of Spain during their short tenure in the Primera Liga in the early '90s. However he may best be remembered for being sent off in the USA '94 opener against Germany after a few minutes for kicking Italia '90-winning captain Lothar Matthäus.

Of the current crop, foreign-based stars include defenders Ronald Raldes of Argentine side Club Atlético Colón, Ronald Rivero of China's Shenzhen Ruby and striker Marcelo Moreno Martins, who plies his trade for Ukrainian giants Shakhtar Donetsk.

SO WHAT NOW?

The Bolivian NT having fallen on the hard times it has will find it difficult, to say the least, to qualify for Brazil 2014 even with the hosts' obvious absence from qualifying. Only last week they succumbed 1-0 to the resurgent Venezuela, although two 1-all draws against the might of Argentina in the last four months is something to take a measure of comfort in. With the South American qualifying marathon far from over, the Bolivians remain in the race, but will almost certainly hinge their hopes on attaining a play-off spot against Asia's fifth-placed side. Thankfully, that almost certainly WON'T be Australia!

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# SFC show credentials for title chase

By Daniel Quinn

**Back to back for Gold Coast United**  
Gold Coast United has defeated Melbourne Heart 3-2 at Owen Park on Saturday to win their second consecutive win.

Gold Coast created the first chance on 4 minutes through Jake Barker-Daish but Sebastian Mattei was in the Heart goal to save well.

The hosts however didn't take long to open the scoring on 12 minutes with Chris Lucas slotting home into an open net after a good run by skipper Daniel Bowles.

It only took three more minutes for Gold Coast to create another chance, this time with Tahj Minniecon whose shot from 20 metres went just wide.

Three minutes before the break Mitch Cooper then tested Mattei as his shot from the edge of the box was again saved.

Six minutes into the second-half Gold coast had doubled their lead through Daniel Bowles who finished off Mitch Cooper's brilliant flick pass.

Immediately after the restart Lucas had a great chance to grab a brace but his shot hit the woodwork.

On 63 minutes it was 3-0 after a great move involving Minniecon, Bowles and Borg and finally with Tom Boland whose shot was saved by Mattei. The ball then fell for Barker-Daish who tapped home.

On 71 minutes Heart Rising Star Craig Goodwin made it 3-1 after a defensive mistake by Neko Vujevich and Tim Anderson. As Vujevich received a pass by Anderson Goodwin pounced and scored at the time a consolidation goal.

Four minutes later Goodwin had a brace and gave his side a chance after a Tim Anderson save fell into his path. Heart couldn't make the miraculous come-back and it finished 3-2 to Gold Coast.

**Glory too strong for Reds**  
Perth Glory has defeated Adelaide United 3-2 at Burton Park on Saturday afternoon.

Glory's first chance game on 13 minutes when Perth captain Reece Vitiglia's shot was saved by John Hall in goal for the hosts.

It was just a minute later when Perth opened the scoring with Ndumba Makeche who rounded the United 'keeper before slotting into an open net.

The hosts had their first opportunity to equalise on 19 minutes with Allan Welsh but his shot was smashed over the bar.

On 26 minutes Perth doubled their lead through captain Vitiglia who easily slotted pass Hall in goal after a brilliant



Brisbane Roar players hunt in packs and surround their Newcastle Jets opponent.

Photo: BEN NEVILLE

through ball by Brandon O'Neill.

Before half-time Adelaide had a chance to reduce the score line by one but Ian Kamau and Liam Wooding couldn't get past Devon Spence in goal for Perth. The second-half started just like the first on 53 minutes but John Hall was in great form to deny Makeche in two occasions.

Hall's great form influenced his teammates as Liam Wooding pulled one goal back on 62 minutes with the U19 Joey driving low into the bottom corner.

But the hard work by Adelaide was all to no avail as Makeche on 75 minutes showed his strength in the box to pass to Alec Jovic who finished from close range.

On 92 minutes Adelaide made the last minutes very nervy for Perth as Wooding finished scoring a brace

**Mariners continue rich form**  
Central Coast Mariners has defeated The AIS 3-1 at Plum Park on Sunday

The visitors from the capital created the first chance with Benjamin Garuccio but Nicholas Littler blocked his shot.

One minute later Mariners had their first attempt through Mitchell Duke who hit the side netting.

Stefan Mauk was next up to test the Mariners 'keeper but his volley was well saved.

On 21 minutes Littler opened the scoring with a glancing header for the hosts.

The home side then doubled their lead on 32 minutes through Mitchell Duke after a well made move involving Kwabena Appiah-Kubi and Ben Jurman.

The Mariners started to dominate and they got their deserved third on 63 minutes through Captain Jimmy Oates. Oates finished off a shank which fell into his path.

Both teams didn't create much for the rest of the game but AIS continued to push the Mariners and deserved a consolation goal in stoppage time through John Karatzas.

**Sydney a NYL contender?**  
Sydney FC has defeated a winless Melbourne Victory 5-1 at Leichhardt Oval on Sunday.

Finnish striker Juho Makela opened

the scoring from close-range on 14 minutes after a scramble in the box and a poorly cleared corner.

Two minutes later Sydney's lead was doubled when Joel Chianese got the last touch.

Victory failed to create many chances however John Buceto did force Ryan Norval into a save.

Despite Victory's attempt of a come-back Sydney extended their lead on 28 minutes through Finnish striker Makela for his brace from close-range.

Five minutes later star forward Mitchell Maillia got himself onto the score sheet once again after a good low finish. Maillia too could have got a brace but his next attempt was smashed off the woodwork.

Five minutes into the second stanza Victory's chances of coming back were thwarted as Tomislav Mijic scored Sydney's fifth. Yet again another close-range finish after Finish striker Makela did the hard work.

Makela then could have had his hat-trick but his header was put over the bar.

Despite the score line Luke O'Dea got

a consolidation and probably the goal of the game as he curled it into the top corner.

Melbourne Victory coach Darren Davies found some positive despite the result. "We actually drew the second-half one-all. We worked all week defensively, we conceded four goals in the first-half and were four-nil down and it was always going to be difficult for the boys however they came out in the second-half with a slightly different shape and we have ended up drawing the second-half one-all which is a massive, massive positive for us playing against us. They had three first team players who are good players and were very productive for them and for our youngsters, they can only learn from that experience."

**Goals galore at Adamstown Oval**  
Brisbane Roar and Newcastle Jets have played out a goal scoring feast on Sunday at Adamstown Oval with Brisbane winning 6-3.

Roar captain Kenneth Dougall opened the scoring on 2 minutes as he finished after Ali Abbas gave away the ball.

## Results

Gold Coast United 3:2 Melbourne Heart  
Adelaide United FC 2:3 Perth Glory  
Central Coast Mariners 3:1 AIS  
Sydney FC 5:1 Melbourne Victory  
Newcastle Jets 3:6 Brisbane Roar

## NYL Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 Brisbane Roar FC	5	4	0	1	17	9	12
1 CC Mariners	5	3	1	1	13	5	10
3 Sydney FC	5	3	1	1	16	6	10
4 Perth Glory FC	5	3	1	1	12	10	2
5 Melbourne Heart	5	3	0	2	9	9	0
6 Gold Coast United	5	2	0	3	9	10	-1
7 Newcastle Jets FC	5	1	2	2	9	13	-4
8 Adelaide United	5	1	1	3	7	10	-3
9 AIS	4	1	0	3	6	9	-3
10 Melbourne Victory	4	0	0	4	2	18	-16

## Next Round

26 Nov 11 3:00pm <b>AIS Vs Sydney FC</b> Track, Canberra
26 Nov 11 4:00pm <b>Adelaide United Vs Newcastle Jets</b> Burton Park
27 Nov 11 2:15pm <b>Melbourne Victory Vs Gold Coast Utd</b> AAMI Park
27 Nov 11 2:30pm <b>Melbourne Heart Vs CC Mariners</b> John Cain Memorial Park, Thornbury
<b>Brisbane Roar FC Vs Perth Glory</b>

Abbas then pushed to make amends with an attempt but it was saved by Acton in goal. However James Virgili was there slotted the ball into the open net. On 9 minutes an unmarked Nicholas Fitzgerald made it 2-1 with a simple tap in at the far post.

The lively Abbas then shot powerfully over the bar on 14 minutes before being replaced with a knee injury. Abbas' replacement Kale Bradbery then made an instant impact to level the score line on 30 minutes. After he was played in he slid the ball past Acton in goal.

Rocco Visconte then gave his side the lead on 36 minutes with a powerful strike.

Roar's lead was then extended on 52 minutes through Fitzgerald with an easy finish.

But Bradbery got his second only 9 minutes later to make a contest out of the game.

However Fitzgerald finished earning himself a hat-trick but the scoring wasn't over.

Tomislav Cirjak made it 6-3 on 84 minutes to ensure the points.



Brisbane Roar players celebrate one of their goals in the 6-3 triumph over the Jets and continue to occupy top spot in the NYL. Photo: BEN NEVILLE



NYL action between the Jets and Roar.

Photo: BEN NEVILLE





# Caitlin's hat-trick inspires Victory to the fore

By Ann Odong

Canberra United have continued their winning ways with a comfortable 3 – 1 win over the Newcastle Jets at home. The win gives United a perfect start to the season and remain top. Meanwhile defending champions Brisbane Roar won their way into second position with a dominant 5 – 2 victory over Perth Glory and Melbourne Victory inflicted another defeat on Adelaide United to see them move into the Top 4.

A brace from Golden Boot leader Michelle Heyman has seen Canberra extend their lead at the top of the Westfield W-League as they easily accounted for the Newcastle Jets 3 -1.

Canberra entered the contest warm favourites and, on a warm day, the home side didn't disappoint. Inside 10 minutes in form striker Ashleigh Sykes had a sight on goal when she was released by Caitlin Munoz. Unselfishly Sykes attempted to square to a fast approaching Taryn Hemmings at the far post but the move was foiled by the Jets' defence.

Newcastle hit back from an unlikely source minutes later as defender Stacey Day unleashed from 25 yards out forcing Canberra goalkeeper Lydia Williams to tip the goalwards strike over the crossbar. The next 10 minutes saw a midfield tussle ensue with Sally Shipard leading for Canberra and Nicola Bolger for Newcastle.

That deadlock was broken just on the half hour after Hemmings had earned United a corner after forcing a save from Newcastle custodian Melissa Barbieri. Catching the Jets' defence napping, the ball was released to Shipard on the edge of the penalty area. With space and time, the Matildas midfielder lined up the goals and converted for her first Canberra United goal. Lisa De Vanna looked to restore parity prior to the break but her strike saw an equally impressive diving stop from Williams.

Ahead, Canberra looked to build the pressure after the break with their midfield of Sykes, Hemmings, Shipard and Jennifer Bisset dominating proceedings. Shipard looked to nab her second but Barbieri was equal to the task as she pushed the shot over the bar. Newcastle weren't able to hold out much longer and Canberra doubled their lead in the 64th minute with a sweeping move. Defender Ellyse Perry hit up Shipard on the left wing, in space the midfielder floated a nicely weighted ball to back post with the striker neatly Heyman heading home.

The next chance fell to Perry but her sweetly hit strike was easily collected by Barbieri. Despite being two goals down, the visitors continued to work and 13 minutes from the final whistle, they found their way back in the match. Against the run of play, Gemma Pearce rode several challenges before providing to Gema Simon. With time, Simon beautifully curled her strike off far post to pull one back. However, United were not to be denied and hit back with a quick response. A rapid counter with Sykes and Perry involved, ended in a glancing header from Heyman to kill off the Jets.

## VICTORY TO THE FOUR

A Caitlin Friend hat-trick has helped Melbourne Victory ease to a 4-0 win over Adelaide United at the Veneto Club on Saturday. The win sees the Victorian side move into that crucial Top 4 at the expense of the Newcastle Jets.

Despite 2 losses on the trot, Melbourne commenced with confidence and quickly converted their early possession dominance into goals. On 16 minutes, feisty



As the rain sheets down at Bulleen, Victory's Caitlin Friend goes down, leaving the ball to Adelaide United captain Abby Erceg. Emma Checker looks on intently. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Ashley Brown (left) and Jodie Taylor (right) join Caitlin Friend to celebrate her goal. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

midfielder Katrina Gorry went down under the weight of a tough challenge, and while the Victory weren't awarded a free kick, it allowed Friend take advantage at the near post to turn home a cross. Gorry continued to be a threat for Adelaide and was almost provider for Melbourne's second when she released captain Jodie Taylor. Taylor cut inside before seeing her striker curl just wide.

Minutes later she was not to be denied when her beautifully taken 25 yard free kick found the underside of the cross bar and then the back of the net. Adelaide struggled to contain the rampant Melbourne and went close to conceding a third before half time

when Taylor narrowly missed wide once again. Marijana Rajcic had Adelaide's best chance of the half when she found space on the break only to blast high from just inside the penalty area.

The second half was more of the same with Melbourne attacking and Adelaide looking to resist. Gorry looked to turn goal-scorer on 56 minutes when her effort rattled the crossbar from distance. The game was all but over a minute later as Friend earned her second off a Rebekah Stott delivery. The teenage striker completed the demolition job and her hat-trick 10 minutes from the final whistle with a well taken strike just inside 18 yards.



Ashley Brown (Melb Victory) gives Georgia Macri (Adelaide United) the slip. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

## ROAR BUTTERS GLORY

A sparkling performance from Tameka Butt has led the Brisbane Roar to a 5 -2 defeat of Perth Glory 6PR Stadium in Western Australia.

With Westfield Matildas coach Tom Sermanni watching on, Butt got the Roar off to the perfect start with just five minutes on the clock. Unmarked she unloaded from long range to beat in form Perth goalkeeper Mackenzie Arnold and find the top left corner for a stunning opener. That set the tone for the rest of the match with the Matildas playmaker in the thick of all the action. Minutes later only a brilliant diving stop from Arnold denied Butt her second.

Surviving the early storm relatively intact, Perth had their first sight of the visitors goal when Katarina Jukic cut-back to Marianna Tabain but Brisbane goalkeeper Casey Dumont comfortably dealt with the danger. Against the run of play, Perth found themselves level on 25 minutes. Elisa D'Ovidio's touchline run and shot hit the hand of defender Ellen Beaumont with Perth striker Emma Kete easily converted the penalty kick. Perth then looked to grab the lead as Kete struck minutes later with Dumont saving the Roar. Just on half time, Brisbane then took shock lead as Butt navigated the Glory defence give her side a 2 – 1 half time lead.

## Results

Canberra United 3 (Sally Shipard 29', Michelle Heyman 64', 80')  
Newcastle Jets 1 (Gema Simon 77')

Melbourne Victory 4 (Friend 16, 57, 80, Taylor 23)  
Adelaide United 0

Perth Glory 2 (Kete 25p, Tabain 78)  
Brisbane Roar 5 (Butt 6, 44, 74p, Gielnik 60, Polkinghorne 72)

## Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	P
1 Canberra United FC	5	5	0	0	13	5	8	15
2 Brisbane Roar	4	2	1	1	10	3	7	7
3 Sydney FC	4	2	1	1	7	4	3	7
4 Melbourne Victory	4	2	0	2	8	4	4	6
5 Newcastle Jets FC	4	2	0	2	8	9	-1	6
6 Perth Glory FC	4	1	0	3	6	11	-5	3
7 Adelaide United FC	5	0	0	5	3	15	-12	0

## Next Round

26 Nov 11 2:30pm  
Adelaide United Vs Sydney FC  
Hindmarsh Stadium

26 Nov 11 3:00pm  
Brisbane Roar Vs Melbourne Victory  
Cleveland Showgrounds, Cleveland

26 Nov 11 3:00pm  
Newcastle Jets Vs Perth Glory  
Adamstown Oval, Newcastle

Canberra United Vs Bye



Danielle Johnson (Melb Victory) denies Adelaide's Rachael Quigley the ball. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

The Glory began the second half brightly without many obvious chances and on the hour their task was made doubly hard with another stunning strike. This time it was teenager Emily Gielnik who rocketed her shot into the bottom-left corner of the net. With a comfortable two goal lead, Brisbane then went into over drive. First with captain Clare Polkinghorne tucking home a dangerous corner for her second goal in as many matches, then with Butt converting a penalty for a her hat-trick. Perth continued to toil despite the deficit and were rewarded with D'Ovidio teeing up Tabain who pulled back a consolation goal.



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# Juan Sebastian Veron's retirement goes out with a bang!

## Latin Wrap



### Francis Fields

Last weekend's match between Estudiantes de La Plata versus Banfield was suspended with the away side 1-0 up as Estudiantes fans had detonated bombs and pyrotechnics.

Midfielder and captain Juan Sebastián Verón (pictured) indicated that the play was a setup.

Verón was one of the players to approach the fans and directly talk in order to discontinue their anti-social behaviour which ended up suspending the match by convincing the match referee to take such a decision.

The setup was made a week ago, with both Adrian Sossio and Pablo Cabrera, two of the heads of the "Pincha" group.

It has to do with the internal fighting of fans whom are contributing money towards the preparations of flags and banners to be revealed for display at Verón's farewell match as the star midfielder retires at season's end.

"Los Leales" - literally translated as The Faithful are the older section of supporters and had planned to revenge for losing control of the sets of supporters.

There were exactly 210 of these supporters who gained prohibited



Claudio Borghi sent his report this week. The Tribunal will have a decision later today (Thursday AEDT).

access to the stadium therefore because they had been guaranteed tickets and entry to the match, it sparked the violent disruptions.

The message was clear and simple: "Los Leales" had to cause such disruption to get the message across that they do not think of abandoning the club of Estudiantes de La Plata as its prime group of supporters. It is a telling tale in the battle for power in the war against violence in football stadiums across Argentina. Argentine club giant Boca Juniors is only a win away from clinching the title of the Apertura championship.

The xeneizes face a tough-sided Godoy Cruz away in the Andean city of Mendoza and authorities fear the travelling and faithful Boca Juniors supporters may be caught up in threatening violence.

La Doce is the hooligan supporter

group or "barra brava" notoriously known alongside Boca. Its former leader Rafael di Zeo leads a counterband group which locates itself on the opposite terraces at the stadium.

Authorities fear violence could escalate as the internal bickering among the sets of supporters as the laws are yet to be handed down by the government and the bans yet to be applied for prohibition of repeated offenders.

Di Zeo is known for his outspoken words, threatening to head west to Mendoza from the capital Buenos Aires in "any measure, with sticks, guns, hands, we are going to Mendoza no matter what and we shall decide from there".

There is an investigation undergoing between the notorious internal rivalry between the two groups of

supporters that were caused from the break-up after Di Zeo served time behind bars.

Boca Juniors authorities are worrying about the safety of the travelling supporters as Godoy Cruz confirmed it will hand out 15,000 tickets.

There will be 1,000 police present for the match.

Two weeks ago when the Chilean national team was gearing up for its away clash in Montevideo to Uruguay for the World Cup 2014 qualifiers, playmaker Jorge Valdivia led four of his other teammates to an alleged drunken night after the baptism of his baby child, in Santiago. The training camp was based at the football headquarters at the Juan Pinto Durán complex as usual when coach Borghi (pictured) dismissed the squad for a free afternoon. They



Violence is a serious problem in Argentina. Juan Sebastian Veron tried to calm down fans.

were to report back at 10pm to the team hotel.

#### The Borghi Report

Earlier today (Thursday), Claudio Borghi submitted his report to the Chilean football federation.

The disciplinary tribunal shall await and decide the fate of Valdivia alongside Juventus' Arturo Vidal, Carlos Carmona of Atalanta Bergamo also in the Italian Serie A and England's Championship players Jean Beausejour with Birmingham City and Gonzalo Jara at Brighton and Hove Albion.

Borghi's report includes statements from Vidal and Carmona, both of whom filed letters announcing their regret for the alleged debauchery and ill-temper upon their late arrival at the team hotel.

All five stumbled to the hotel at

10.45pm according to the national team boss whom immediately ordered them to leave the team camp, missing out on the two qualifying fixtures in the loss to Uruguay and the home win four days later to Paraguay.

Both Beausejour and Jorge Valdivia, currently with Palmeiras in Brazil are facing the heaviest of fines for submitting and publicising a latter to the press last week accusing the coach of misleading false statements regarding their drunken state.

An expected outcome on the decision to suspend the five players shall be confirmed by tomorrow.

#### COPA SUBAMERICANA

Universidad de Chile drew with Vasco da Gama 1-1 in Rio de Janeiro. Bernardo '33, Osvaldo Gonzales '78.

## FOOTBALL BRIEFS

### Villas-Boas: I am responsible

Chelsea boss Andre Villas-Boas has accepted responsibility for his side's heartbreaking 2-1 Champions League loss at Bayer Leverkusen.

The visitors took the lead through Didier Drogba three minutes into the second half, but a header from Eren Derdiyok and an injury-time winner from Manuel Freidrich conspired to defeat Villas-Boas' men.

The result leaves Chelsea needing to defeat Valencia at Stamford Bridge in a fortnight's time to make sure of their place in the last 16 and the Portuguese coach said he was ultimately responsible for the side's failure.

"Confidence is low, but they expect the manager to inspire them," Villas-Boas said.

### Bin Hammam lodges CAS appeal

Former Asian football chief Mohamed Bin Hammam has lodged an appeal with the Court of Arbitration for Sport against his lifetime ban.

The Qatari was suspended by global governing body FIFA in July after being found guilty of attempting to buy votes at its presidential election.

But it was revealed on Wednesday that he will be appealing the ban, for which a date is yet to be set.

"The appellant requests the annulment of the FIFA decision," CAS said in a short statement.

The former Asian Football Confederation president withdrew from the election and Sepp Blatter was re-elected unopposed.

His initial appeal against the ban to FIFA was turned down.

A FIFA corruption investigation alleged the 62-year-old paid Caribbean Football Union officials to vote for him in the presidential election.

### Santos boss: Ronaldo wanted Neymar to join Real

Santos president Luis Alvaro de Oliveira Ribeiro has claimed Ronaldo tried to lure Neymar to Real Madrid.

Former Real and Barcelona striker Ronaldo is now working for football agency 9ine, which he founded after retiring as a player in February.

The three-time FIFA Player of the Year has been accused by the Santos boss of trying to earn money by pushing a transfer through for Brazil prodigy Neymar.

The striker, 19, penned new terms with Santos on November 9 tying him to the club until 2014, but Ribeiro claimed Ronaldo tried to change things prior to the deal by acting on behalf of La Liga outfit Real. "Ronaldo was the first to speak with Real Madrid and then after that people from the club arrived from Spain," Ribeiro told Folha de Sao Paulo. "He came to me with an offer, but it was well below the buy-out clause (believed to be around 45 million euros).

### Ronaldinho's charity faces probe

The foundation of Brazil international Ronaldinho is being investigated amid doubts over its relationship with certain governing bodies.

The former Barcelona and AC Milan attacker - now with playing Flamengo in his homeland - set up the non-profit Institute of Ronaldinho Gaucha (IRG) in December 2006 to encourage social interaction and cultural projects for Brazilian children. However, agreements between the foundation and the City Department of Education (SMED) are being questioned by Mauro Pinheiro, a Porto Alegre politician.

"I have no doubt that this partnership means a good use of public resources. What were the actual results of these agreements?" the councillor asked Globoesporte.

The IRG has built a large sports arena, swimming pools, football pitches and classrooms for the use of young people, but questions have been raised over the purchase of materials to manufacture the facilities.

### Hiddink has several offers

The agent of Guus Hiddink has revealed a move for the Dutch coach to Anzhi Makhachkala is 'possible', amid interest from several clubs.

Cees van Nieuwenhuizen claims that experienced manager has received several offers in since leaving the helm of Turkey on November 16, having failed to lead the nation to a place at Euro 2012.

The former PSV, Chelsea, Australia and Russia coach has claimed be open to the 'interesting project' at Russian outfit Anzhi, and his agent has now confirmed that the move is one of several on the table.

"I was contacted by the representatives of five clubs and football associations. Unfortunately, I can't tell you what countries these clubs were from," Van Nieuwenhuizen said to Sovetsky Sport.

"Guus said in an interview he knew about Anzhi from a good friend of his, but he hasn't made any decision.

### FA Cup wrap

AFC Wimbledon defeated Scunthorpe United 1-0 on Tuesday to book an FA Cup second-round tie against Bradford City.

Former Ebbsfleet United striker Luke Moore scored the winner for visitors Wimbledon in the 66th minute at Glanford Park.

They will meet fellow League Two club Bradford on December 3 with a place in the third round up for grabs. Also on Tuesday, League Two strugglers Plymouth, in the Championship as recently as two seasons ago, went down 2-0 away to non-league club Stourbridge.

Goals from Paul McCone and Sean Evans consigned the visitors to an embarrassing defeat at the War Memorial Ground.

In another upset, Oxford City gave up a 1-0 lead to lose 2-1 at home to Redbridge FC.

Gillingham held off AFC Bournemouth to win 3-2 at home.

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Man City and Reds set to clash

EPL Wrap

Steven Talevski

Manchester City has remained the only unbeaten team in the English Premier League after a 3-1 victory over Newcastle United at the Etihad Stadium.

Goals from Mario Balotelli, Micah Richards and Sergio Agüero were enough to end Newcastle United's undefeated streak in the Premier League as substitute Dan Gosling scored a conciliation goal for the Magpies in the 89th minute.

Manchester City will look to continue their undefeated streak this weekend as they travel to Anfield where Liverpool are coming off a hot win away to Chelsea.

A stunning late Glen Johnson goal separated the two teams after Maxi Rodríguez opened the scoring in the 33rd minute before Chelsea equalised through Daniel Sturridge ten minutes into the second half.

Liverpool dedicated the victory to their Australian goalkeeper Brad Jones who lost his five year old son, Luca Jones, to leukaemia last Friday. Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish paid his respects saying, "Obviously it was disappointing for everybody at Liverpool, Luca's been ill for a while and unfortunately he never got any better, so that's when football becomes irrelevant ... when a five-year-old kid loses his life," he said.

"You dread to think what Brad is going through, but he knows that everybody at the football club is thinking of him and feels hugely sympathetic to him." Liverpool players also paid their respect by wearing black armbands.



After the match Liverpool midfielder Charlie Adam said, "I'd like to dedicate the win to Brad Jones who had a difficult week losing his son."

"That one was for you big man and we are all thinking about you."

The victory leaves Liverpool in sixth position, level on 22 points with Chelsea who host Wolverhampton Wanderers who surrendered a one nil lead against Everton this past weekend.

A late first half Phil Jagielka header and a 83rd minute Leighton Baines penalty was enough to hand Everton the three points at Goodison Park.

Meanwhile Newcastle United faces second placed Manchester United at Old Trafford who continues their hot pursuit of ladder leaders and local rivals Manchester City.

Manchester United will go into the game after an away win against Swansea City courtesy of an early Javier Hernandez goal.

Four points behind Manchester United are Tottenham who defeated Aston Villa at White Hart Lane thanks to a double to on loan striker Emmanuel Adebayor.

The victory allowed Tottenham to

surpass Newcastle United into third position with a game in hand as they continue their nine game undefeated run which contains eight wins and a single draw.

Tottenham next visit The Hawthorns to take on West Bromwich Albion who defeated Bolton 2-1 in a promising victory.

Meanwhile Aston Villa travel to Swansea City with Australian Chris Herd hoping to get another start after a solid 86 minute performance in the centre of midfield for Villa against Tottenham.

In the battle of the bottom two sides, Blackburn snatched a point after Aiyegbeni Yakubu slotted a penalty away eight minutes into injury time.

Wigan appeared to have won the three points as substitute Albert Crusat found the back of the net from the edge of the penalty area in the 88th minute.

But frantic last ditch efforts from Blackburn saw goalkeeper Paul Robinson go up for a corner and collect an accidental boot to the face from Wigan midfielder David Jones.

Yakubu then stepped up and sent the goalkeeper the wrong way to earn

Blackburn a dramatic point at the DW Stadium.

The draw leaves Wigan on the bottom of the Premier League table as they head into an away trip to the Stadium of Light to face Sunderland who had to settle for a point after a fantastic performance from Socceroo Mark Schwarzer as Fulham held Sunderland goalless.

Just a point above Wigan, Blackburn travel to the Britannia Stadium to face Stoke City who are coming off their second straight loss at home as they were shocked by Queens Park Rangers who picked up a 3-2 victory.

Queens Park Rangers will look for their first back to back wins this season as they travel Carrow Road to face Norwich City who lost 2-1 to Arsenal despite taking the lead through Steve Morrison in the 16th minute.

In the only other match this weekend, Arsenal take on London rivals Fulham at the Emirates Stadium.

Arsenal will go into the match with hot form with five straight wins in the Premier League and an inform Robin van Persie who has scored 13 goals this Premier League season.

Blatter: Racism row 'closed'

FIFA president Sepp Blatter believes the matter surrounding his comments about on-field racism in football is 'closed'.

The Swiss 75-year-old was the subject of strong criticism from players, managers and football associations after suggesting victims of racism on the field should settle the issue with a handshake.

Blatter, who has since apologised and tried to clarify his comments, said on Wednesday he felt it was the end of the matter.

"I can only say this item for me is closed," he said at a press conference.

There is no tolerance (of) racism. I have been interpreted as such and I have made my apologies. I cannot say anything more."

"There is no discrimination in my feelings, there is no racism, nothing at all. This matter for me is over. We go forward. There is zero tolerance (for) racism, zero tolerance (for) discrimination in all activities in the field of play and outside the field."

"(I was) very much hurt by these comments because it touched me in my conscience and my determination to go against racism."

It was the most recent of a long list of



controversies surrounding Blatter, after allegations of bribery and corruption surrounding the presidential election, which saw him voted in unopposed.

He also said he regretted awarding two World Cups at once after Russia and Qatar were given hosting rights for the 2018 and 2022 tournaments respectively.

"Look at it this way. Anyone who works a lot makes mistakes from time to time," Blatter said.

"One thing I would never do again is allow the executive committee to award two World Cups at once."

"It led to a conflict of interests because everyone was able to vote, even if their own country was involved in the bidding. That was a mistake."

ITALY LATEST BECKHAM RADAR

David Beckham may make a shock return to Serie A if he decides to leave LA Galaxy when his contract expires.

The former Real Madrid and Manchester United midfielder's five-year deal with the MLS side ends this month and it is widely believed that he will depart for another stint in Europe, with Paris Saint-Germain the apparent frontrunners for his signature.

The 36-year-old's last European adventure came at the San Siro where he had two loan spells with AC Milan, making 33 appearances for the club during MLS off-season periods.

"I had a fantastic experience at Milan, one I will never forget," Beckham told La Gazzetta dello Sport.

"I don't intend to retire and will assess where is best for my family, though I will not return to the Premier League. "

"I have received some offers from Italy, but haven't spoken to (PSG director of sport) Leonardo about my future."

However, the former England captain has not ruled out prolonging his stay in the US after he lifted his first trophy with the Galaxy this week, as they secured the MLS Cup with a 1-0 win over Houston Dynamo on Sunday.



APOEL make history to reach last 16

By Matthew Galea

It was another dramatic week in the Champions League as Matchday Five came and went with plenty of repercussions and storylines to follow heading into Matchday Six.

In Group A, Manchester City were dealt a crushing blow by the Serie A's Napoli. Edison Cavani scored a magnificent brace to send the Sky Blues hurtling towards the Europa League with one game left to play. Cavani's goals came either side of Balotelli's first half equalizer, and put Napoli up into second place, and on course to qualify for the next round of the Champions League. Bayern Munich took full advantage, almost certainly securing top spot by demolishing Villarreal 3-1, in yet another promising performance, which continues to propel the Bavarian giants firmly into the category of tournament favourites.

Lille kept their qualification hopes alive in the early kick off in Moscow, where an inspired 2-0 win ensured their fate was held within their own hands. Joe Cole, Eden Hazard and Moussa Sow all impressed in Lille's fine performance. Inter Milan were once again held b Turkish outfit Trabzonspor who earnt a 1-1 draw in Turkey. The result was enough for Inter Milan to qualify, but any three of the other teams could earn qualification yet.

Manchester United have once again made life hard for themselves, after another hot/cold performance stopped them from taking three

points from Benfica once again. Goals from Berbatov and Fletcher were not enough for the Red Devils on the night. The 2-2 draw leaves United on top of their group, but that could change if United don't get a win in Switzerland against FC Basel, who can also gain qualification by knocking off last season's semi finalists. FC Basel won their match 3-2 in Romania against pointless Otelul Galati, who face Benfica on Matchday Six. Meanwhile, Real Madrid continued their perfect record with a 6-2 demolition job of Croatian champions, Dinamo Zagreb, in an emphatic and ruthless performance that confirms Madrid as one of the tournament favourites this year. Lyon and Ajax played out a bore-draw in France though, meaning the final qualification spot is still up for grabs. Lyon will need to win in Croatia and hope that Real Madrid do not take their foot off the pedal in their final group game against Ajax to get through to the next round.

Chelsea lost top spot in Group E, as they were put to the sword in Leverkusen losing 2-1, and suddenly their qualification prospects don't look so good. Drogba put the Blues in front, but they would eventually succumb to goals from Derdiyok and then a 90th minute winner from Manuel Friedrich. Valencia scored a massive 7-0 win over Racing Genk to level themselves on points with Chelsea, meaning they will need to get a win at Stamford Bridge to progress and knock the 2008 finalists out



The fairytale continues for APOEL of Cyprus as they advance with the big guns after a point against Zenit secured its passage.

of the competition. Soldado was the hero again, scoring a hat trick. Marseille have made their job harder than it might have been by losing 1-0 in Greece against Olympiakos. They now cannot afford to lose in Germany against Borussia Dortmund if they hope to progress, whilst Olympiakos will welcome an Arsenal side who have already guaranteed themselves top spot. Van Persie was on the scoresheet yet again as he continues his ridiculous scoring run, grabbing another two games in another impressive Arsenal performance. Shinji Kagawa scored a consolation goal in the 92nd minute, but Dortmund's hopes of knockout stage Champions League football now hang on by a thread.

It is all still to be decided in Group G, although Shakhtar Donetsk know that they have no hope of European football after Christmas. Apoel cre-

ated history by becoming the first Cypriot club to qualify for the next stage, whilst Zenit St Petersburg and Porto both stand a chance of also heading into the final round. Zenit and Apoel played out a bore 0-0 draw, but a point was enough for the minnows to at grab at least one of the two qualifying spots, whilst Porto scored a 2-0 win over the hopeless Ukrainians. Hulk and an own goal from Razvan Dinca Rat scored the all important goals, as the Europa League champions look to progress in the Champions League on the final day by beating Zenit at home on Matchday Six.

In Group H, the dead rubber between FC Barcelona and AC Milan was played out like a final itself. Both teams gave it all in an epic match of high quality between two of the competition's premier clubs. Barca ran out 3-2 winners courtesy of goals

UEFA Champions League - Match Day 5

Group A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 München	5	4	1	0	11	4	7	13
2 Napoli	5	2	2	1	8	6	2	8
3 Man City	5	2	1	2	7	6	1	7
4 Villarreal	5	0	0	5	2	12	-10	0

Bayern München 3-1 Villarreal  
Napoli 2-1 Manchester City

Group E	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Leverkusen	5	3	0	2	7	7	0	9
2 Chelsea	5	2	2	1	10	4	6	8
3 Valencia	5	2	2	1	12	4	8	8
4 Genk	5	0	2	3	1	15	-14	2

Valencia 7-0 Genk  
Leverkusen 2-1 Chelsea

Group B	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Inter	5	3	1	1	7	5	2	10
2 Trabzon	5	1	3	1	3	5	-2	6
3 Lille	5	1	2	2	6	6	0	5
4 CSKA	5	1	2	2	7	7	0	5

CSKA Moskva 0-2 Lille  
Trabzonspor 1-1 Inter

Group F	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Arsenal	5	3	2	0	6	3	3	11
2 Marseille	5	2	1	2	4	2	2	7
3 Olympia	5	2	0	3	5	5	0	6
4 Dortmund	5	1	1	3	4	9	-5	4

Marseille 0-1 Olympiacos  
Arsenal 2-1 Dortmund Dortmund

Group C	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Benfica	5	2	3	0	7	4	3	9
2 Man Utd	5	2	3	0	10	6	4	9
3 Basel	5	2	2	1	9	9	0	8
4 Galați	5	0	0	5	3	10	-7	0

Galați 2-3 FC Basel  
Man Utd 2-2 Benfica

Group G	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 APOEL	5	2	3	0	6	4	2	9
2 Zenit	5	2	2	1	7	5	2	8
3 Porto	5	2	1	2	7	7	0	7
4 Shakhtar	5	0	2	3	4	8	-4	2

Zenit 0-0 APOEL  
Shakhtar Donetsk 0-2 Porto

Group D	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 R Madrid	5	5	0	0	16	2	14	15
2 Ajax	5	2	2	1	6	3	3	8
3 Olympique	5	1	2	2	6	4	-5	5
4 Zagreb	5	0	0	5	2	15	-13	0

Lyon 0-0 Ajax  
Real Madrid 6-2 Dinamo Zagreb

Group H	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Barcelona	5	4	1	0	16	4	12	13
2 AC Milan	5	2	2	1	9	6	3	8
3 Viktoria	5	1	1	3	2	9	-7	4
4 BATE	5	0	2	3	2	10	-8	2

BATE 0-1 Plzeň  
Milan 2-3 Barcelona

from Lionel Messi, Xavi and an own goal from Markus Van Bommel. Milan put on a spirited display and pushed the champions all the way, and equalized twice through Ibrahimovic and Boateng, who scored the most spectacular goal, but couldn't keep out the champions. Plzen and Boris-

ov played out the group's other game in a bit of a Europa League play off, which Plzen won 1-0 thanks to a goal from Marek Bakos. The results mean that ten out of sixteen places in the Final Sixteen remain up for grabs coming into Matchday Six.



# Juve regain pole position amidst official errors



Round 12 of Serie A saw Juventus move back into first position with a resounding 3-0 win over Palermo. Udinese lost as Lazio and Napoli drew. Meanwhile, linesmen were at the centre of controversy in Naples, Milan, Florence and Rome.

With their nearest challengers dropping points, Juve made light work of a disappointing Palermo. Three weeks after their last match, Coach Antonio Conte dismissed the notion they would not be ready for the contest, but Josip Illicic almost put the visitors ahead early on. Simone Pepe rose to meet a Giorgio Chiellini cross to give Juve a half-time lead. Minutes into the second half, Alessandro Matri fired home his fifth of the campaign. Then a low Mirko Vucinic centre was dummied by Matri into the path of the onrushing Claudio Marchisio, who had a simple finish from close range. Incredibly, the result means Palermo has taken just one point from six away matches, scoring no goals.

Conte refused to get carried away, telling journalists afterwards: "I'll only evaluate the standings when we reach the halfway stage and have faced all 19 other teams in Serie A. Then we will see where we are and who we want to become."

On Saturday, the Champions League competitors were in action. Inter put in yet another sluggish display, but overcame Cagliari 2-1, aided by an offside goal scored by Thiago Motta. Philippe Coutinho grabbed the second for the Nerazzurri.



A huge clash awaits in the Serie A as Juve visits a Napoli side fresh from dispensing Man City in the UCL.

Fiorentina, with Delio Rossi in charge for the first time, hosted Milan, who welcomed Alexandre Pato back into the team. The Rossoneri dominated proceedings throughout and Clarence Seedorf had a goal wrongly disallowed. Pato struck the post as the 0-0 draw meant a run of five straight wins was halted.

Napoli entertained a Miroslav Klose-less Lazio outfit at the Stadio San Paolo, which also finished 0-0. Napoli controlled much of the match but found an irresistible Federico Marchetti in the Biancocelesti goal. Ezequiel Lavezzi was guilty of missing a clear chance early in the second half, but Christian Maggio was adjudged to have been off-side when he ran through and squared a pass for Edinson Cavani with Marchetti beaten. Replays suggested Maggio was onside.

The final, but less decisive, major linesman blunder came at the Stadio Olimpico as Roma defeated Lecce 2-1. Miralem Pjanic and Fernando Gago gave the Romans a two-goal cushion, but Lecce pulled one back shortly after. Afterward, Pablo Osvaldo scored with

a wonderful overhead kick that Lecce custodian Julio Sergio could only hear whistle past him, only for the linesman to disallow it. Replays show Osvaldo was never offside as the move progressed and was robbed of a spectacular finish.

Elsewhere, Udinese drop to fourth following a 2-0 defeat at Parma. Sebastian Giovinco returned for the hosts and scored from the penalty spot. Genoa left it late against Novara – Miguel Veloso netted in the 86th minute to give the Grifoni three points. Cesena could finally celebrate a win as they defeated Bologna 1-0. Siena and Atalanta played out an entertaining 2-2 draw, with German Denis moving to the top of the scorers chart with nine. Many expected the clause in his contract activating a bonus should he score ten goals in the season to not be paid out, but it looks as if the Argentine has extra money coming his way. Finally, Chievo stunned a wasteful Catania 2-1 in Sicily, with Stefano Sorrentino saving a penalty to help the Flying Donkeys take home the points.

In news coming out of the peninsula, Palermo boss Devis Mangia snapped at journalists over the seemingly never-

ending questions regarding his future. Fiery club president Maurizio Zamparini denied saying Mangia's job is under threat. Also, the agent of Milos Krasic claimed Juve tactician Conte does not want the Serbian winger at the club anymore. He has not featured in nearly two months, but Juve have not stated the player is available for transfer or that Conte wants him to leave.

A huge clash takes place at the Stadio Olimpico this weekend as second placed (only on goal difference) Lazio hosts Juventus. The visitors have won three in a row and face a big week, with the re-scheduled match against Napoli to take place just three days later. Lazio will be hoping goal machine Klose makes a return.

Udinese will try to bounce back when they host Roma on Friday night. The Giallorossi moved to fifth, but must be wary of a Zebrette outfit which has not dropped a point at home.

Milan is looking get back from their loss against Barcelona in the Champions League at home against Chievo. They are in a four way battle for first place and can capitalise on any dropped points from Lazio or Juventus. Cross-town rivals Inter face a tricky test away at Siena, fresh from a draw in Europe. Napoli is also away, facing the dangerous Atalanta just days after their fantastic triumph versus Manchester City.

Elsewhere, Delio Rossi makes his return to Palermo with his Fiorentina side, looking to build from their draw with Milan. Like Udinese, Palermo is strong at home, winning all five matches. Cagliari and Bologna were both disappointed to lose last weekend and need to arrest their respective slides, while Cesena will be buoyed by their maiden win when Genoa comes to the Stadio Dino Manuzzi. Lecce hosts Catania, while finally, Novara are at home against Parma.

## Viva Espana



Pepe Lopez

## Hand of God keeps Real 3 Points Clear

Real Madrid maintained their 3 point advantage over Barcelona FC at the top of the Spanish La Liga. Ironically an Argentine, Gonzalo Higuain was the player responsible for the controversial late moment of madness, when the scores were 3-2 in favor of the visitors Real Madrid at the Mestalla Stadium in Valencia.

Unai Emery, Coach of Valencia FC felt somewhat cheated after the match; "We could have drawn via a penalty near the end, and a point would have done us justice... The defeat leaves us very sad. In the second half, we had released ourselves and found options to tie the match.

The reaction has been positive, but in the end we lost." In stark contrast Real Madrid Coach Jose Mourinho and his players denied the penalty claim, but it wouldn't take a genius to work out who was in denial; "The play happened very fast, but to me the ball hit me in the chest... And when you get hit in the ribs is not a penalty." Claimed Gonzalo Higuain.

"The ball hit him in the chest. Tension is always high at the end, but the play is clean and there's nothing more to say." Reinforced Real Madrid Goalkeeper Iker Casillas.

And when Jose Mourinho was asked a direct question on television if he thought the incident was a penalty, where Gonzalo Higuain was stretched along the floor of the goal line with an out stretched arm knocking away a Valencian shot on goal, Jose responded with a short and abrupt

"No". Asked a second time, Jose again responded in brief fashion "No".

The win against Valencia, all but assures Real Madrid will have the upper hand when they face Barcelona at home in the first La Liga El Clasico for the 2011-2012 season early next month, Saturday December 10, 10pm Spanish time. Category 3 tickets can be purchased for \$714 AUD a seat, or a more expensive option will cost \$4468 AUD for a VIP box seat at the Santiago Bernabeu. Obviously despite the current financial crisis in some European countries like Spain, there are still plenty of football fans with enough money to follow their favorite teams.

Meanwhile newly promoted Granada have thrown away a golden opportunity to move out the relegation zone, when they were leading 2-1 at home to Mallorca.

Linesman Aguilar Rodriguez was hit by an object from the crowd just over an hour into the match, and had to leave the field with a bleeding face. Referee Clos Gomez immediately called off the match. Granada coach Fabricio Gonzalez was devastated; "We are in a state of shock. Our fans have always helped us and this is a pity."

The Spanish Football Association's (RFEF) disciplinary committee are expected to rule the match as a 3-0 forfeit result to Mallorca this week, when it meets to discuss the matter.

In Champions League football overnight, Real Madrid won their fifth consecutive Champions League group match, 6-2 over GNK Dinamo Zagreb.

The match saw the return of Coach Jose Mourinho to the sidelines, having served his four match ban from last season's bruising encounter with ultimate Champions Barcelona FC in the semi-finals.

In contrast, Spanish outfit Villareal lost their fifth consecutive Champions League group match, going down 3-1 away to Bayern Munich.

In the other Champions League fixtures, Valencia must win at home to Belgian side Genk to keep alive their hopes of progressing past the group stage, whilst Barcelona will be able to secure top spot in their group, with a win away to AC Milan

## Balkan Wrap



Alex Milic

SERBIA

Partizan and Red Star continue their fine form.

It wasn't a weekend with any surprises as Partizan continued its fine star to the season with a 5:1 win over Borac Cacak with two goals going to Nemanja Tomic.

The defending champions have now won 12 matches in a row and have yet to lose at home since April when they were defeated by Vojvodina. With the win the 'Black and Whites' maintained its four point advantage over city rivals Red Star which overcame Jagodina on the road 3:1. The home side took the lead in the 12th minute but it didn't last long as Andrija Kaludjerovic levelled proceedings, in the second half Mikic and Evandro (penalty) added two goals for a comfortable win. When we are talking about unbeaten runs, Rober Prosinecki's men is also on a run and haven't lost since Round 1 when they were surprised by Spartak. Even third-placed Radnicki Kragujevac is on a great run, the newly promoted side is the club in the Super-Liga that hasn't tasted defeat, they have

won six and drawn six, this time they won on their travels on Belgrade and proved too strong for OFK winning 3:1. Sloboda and Vojvodina also won to keep the pressure on Radnicki.

The biggest match in Round 13 will definitely be the clash between the arch rivals Red Star and Partizan the 141st Eternal Derby. Both sides are going into the match playing great football and both sides are full of confident. Red Star see this match as a real chance to prove they play better and more attractive football with a win cutting the deficit at the top to just 1 point. A win for Partizan will see them increase their lead at the top of the standings and it will put them in a comfortable position with a great chance to remain league leaders before the Winter break thus setting themselves up nicely before the re-start of the season.

### Round 12 Results

**Sloboda – Metalac 4:1, OFK Beograd – Radnicki 1:3, Jagodina – C. Zvezda 1:3, Spartak – Javor 1:0, Partizan – Borac 5:1, Vojvodina – Smederevo 2:0, Hajduk – Novi Pazar 1:0, Rad – BSK 1:1.**

### CROATIA

Dinamo extends its lead

It's been six years since Hajduk has failed to perform to the level of Dinamo and it looks like the story will continue again this season.

Dinamo was on the road in Split while



Serbian derby action between Partizan and Red Star

Hajduk travelled to Zagreb. The defending champions Dinamo were too good for RNK Split 3:1 while the 'Blues' affiliated club Lokomotiv took the points at the 'Maksimir' against Hajduk 1:0.

The gap at the top has now risen to 9 points for Dinamo who are on course for a seventh consecutive league title with the title race all but over before the Winter break. Bulgarian Krasimir Balakov is feeling the heat on the Hajduk bench. However the story of the round was NK

Karlovac and their players who haven't been paid for eight months so they decided not to travel to Rijeka and instead strike. The Croatian FA has threatened with major punishments but all the players want is their hard earned.

"We haven't got food to eat, this is ridiculous, we don't have any other options but to strike" the Karlovac players say while the club's board members put the blame on the Players Association President Dario Simic

The reality in Croatia is that most of the clubs are in the same situation and poorer than later more of the clubs will join Karlovac in their battle. In that case the results of Round 15 haven't been as important but one result is worth mentioning as Varazdin finally won its first match of the season. They had similar problems as Karlovac. They managed to defeat Inter Zapresic a side they last one in May.

Dinamo Zagreb was outplayed in the Champions League suffering one of their biggest defeats in history. The Croatian Champions were taught a lesson in football going down 6:2 at the Bernabau against Real Madrid. The Spanish giants were up 4:0 after only 20 minutes which is a Champions League record.

"The Blues' have been outclassed in their return to the Group Stages scoring only two goals and losing five out of five matches, the last being a home tie against Lyon. It's been a sorry lesson to learn but a warm welcome back into the elite of European football which has proven to be a step too far for Dinamo.

### Round 15 Results:

**Zagreb – Cibaliija 1:1, Split – Dinamo 0:3, Varazdin – Inter 3:2, Šibenik – Lučko 1:1, Zadar – Osijek 2:1, Istra – Slaven 2:1, Lokomotiva – Hajduk 1:0, Rijeka – Karlovac -:-.**

### BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Zrinjski hoting things up

Siroki Brijeg had a great chance to

become Autumn Champions but they were stopped in their tracks by neighbours Zrinjski Mostar who lead with 20minutes remaining through Zurizinov but the away sides celebrations were cut short when Brazilian import Wagner scored in added time. Despite Zeljeznicar getting the points in Gradiska having beaten kozara 2:0 the Autumn winner will be decided in the last round when Zeljo welcomes Leotar to the Grbavica while Siroki makes the trip to Sarajevo to take on Olimpic. It was also very interesting at the 'Kosevo' Stadium where Zvijezda has a 2:0 lead against FK Sarajevo but the home side quickly went into second gear and went on to win the match and third spot in the ladder. In the battle for the top remains Borac Banja Luka who won away to Slavija which now puts the club from Sarajevo in the hot seat for relegation. While the gap at the top in Croatia is 10 points, in Bosnia six sides are separated by the same margin. Zrinjski and Olimpic are amongst the sides battling for the top spots while Celik, Velez and Rudar must concentrate on a tough relegation battle despite the fact only six points separates seventh place from the bottom.

### Round 14 Results

**Čelik – GOŠK 2:0, Velež – Sloboda 3:0, Slavija – Borac 0:2, Rudar – Travnik 4:0, Sarajevo – Zvijezda 3:2, Kozara – Željezničar 0:2, Leotar – Olimpic 0:1, Široki – Zrinjski 1:1.**

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ENGLAND EPL



	Last5games								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Most recent first
Manchester City	12	11	1	0	42	11	+31	34	W W W W W
Manchester United	12	9	2	1	29	12	+17	29	W W W L D
Tottenham Hotspur	11	8	1	2	23	15	+8	25	W W W W D
Newcastle United	12	7	4	1	18	11	+7	25	L W W W D
Chelsea	12	7	1	4	25	17	+8	22	L W L L W
Liverpool	12	6	4	2	16	11	+5	22	W D W D D
Arsenal	12	7	1	4	25	22	+3	22	W W W W W
Aston Villa	12	3	6	3	16	17	-1	15	L W D L L
Queens Park Rangers	12	4	3	5	13	22	-9	15	W L L W D
West Bromwich Albion	12	4	2	6	11	17	-6	14	W L L W W
Norwich City	12	3	4	5	17	20	-3	13	L D D W D
Everton	11	4	1	6	13	16	-3	13	W L L W L
Swansea City	12	3	4	5	12	16	-4	13	L D W D L
Stoke City	12	3	3	6	10	22	-12	12	L L L L W
Sunderland	12	2	5	5	14	13	+1	11	D L D W L
Fulham	12	2	5	5	14	15	-1	11	D L W L L
Wolverhampton Wanderers	12	3	2	7	13	20	-7	11	L W D L D
Bolton Wanderers	12	3	0	9	19	29	-10	9	L W L L W
Blackburn Rovers	12	1	4	7	16	27	-11	7	D L D L D
Wigan Athletic	12	1	3	8	10	23	-13	6	D L L L L

GERMANY Bundesliga



	Last5games								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Most recent first
Bayern München	13	9	1	3	32	5	+27	28	LW L W L W
Borussia Dortmund	13	8	2	3	27	9	+18	26	W W D W W
Borussia M'glad...	13	8	2	3	20	9	+11	26	W W W L D
Schalke 04	13	8	1	4	28	18	+10	25	W D W W L
Werder Bremen	13	7	2	4	23	21	+2	23	L W W D L
Stuttgart	13	6	3	4	20	13	+7	21	W L D D W
Bayer Leverkusen	13	6	3	4	17	16	+1	21	D W D L D
Hannover 96	13	5	4	4	17	21	-4	19	L D L W L
Hoffenheim	13	5	2	6	15	15	+0	17	L D L W L
Hertha BSC	13	4	5	4	18	19	-1	17	D L W D L
Köln	12	5	1	6	20	26	-6	16	L W L W L
Wolfsburg	13	5	1	7	19	26	-7	16	W L D D W
Kaiserslautern	13	3	4	6	10	17	-7	13	L D D W W
Hamburger SV	13	3	4	6	17	25	-8	13	W D D D W
Mainz 05	12	3	3	6	16	23	-7	12	W D L D L
Nürnberg	13	3	3	7	13	24	-11	12	L L L D L
Freiburg	13	3	2	8	18	29	-11	11	D W L L L
Augsburg	13	1	5	7	10	24	-14	8	L L L D W

THE CHAMPIONSHIP



	Last5games									Most recent first			
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts					
Southampton	17	12	3	2	40	17	+23	39	W	W	W	W	D
West Ham United	17	10	4	3	30	14	+16	34	W	W	D	W	W
Cardiff City	18	8	7	3	32	22	+10	31	D	W	W	W	D
Middlesbrough	17	8	7	2	22	14	+8	31	D	W	W	L	W
Leeds United	17	8	4	5	28	26	+2	28	W	W	L	D	L
Hull City	16	8	3	5	16	15	+1	27	W	L	L	W	W
Blackpool	17	7	5	5	28	21	+7	26	D	W	W	L	L
Birmingham City	15	7	4	4	21	16	+5	25	W	D	L	D	W
Leicester City	17	7	4	6	23	19	+4	25	W	L	W	L	L
Crystal Palace	17	7	4	6	18	17	+1	25	L	D	D	W	D
Derby County	17	7	3	7	22	25	-3	24	L	L	L	W	L
Peterborough U...	17	7	2	8	33	30	+3	23	D	W	L	L	L
Brighton & Hov...	17	6	5	6	19	20	-1	23	L	W	L	D	L
Reading	17	5	6	6	17	17	+0	21	L	W	L	D	D
Barnsley	17	5	6	6	19	21	-2	21	W	L	W	L	L
Ipswich Town	16	6	2	8	23	30	-7	20	L	L	L	L	W
Nottingham Forest	17	6	2	9	18	29	-11	20	W	L	W	L	W
Portsmouth	17	5	4	8	19	20	-1	19	L	W	D	L	W
Watford	17	5	4	8	17	26	-9	19	W	L	W	L	L
Millwall	17	4	6	7	20	20	+0	18	L	L	W	W	W
Burnley	17	5	3	9	22	27	-5	18	L	L	L	L	W
Bristol City	17	4	4	9	16	28	-12	16	W	W	D	W	L
Coventry City	18	2	7	9	15	27	-12	13	D	L	L	D	L
Doncaster Rovers	17	3	3	11	13	30	-17	12	L	W	L	D	L

Greece Super League



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
Panathinaikos	8	6	2	0	20	8	+12	20	D W W W W
AEK Athens	10	6	1	3	17	14	+3	19	W L W L W
Olympiakos Piraeus	8	5	3	0	17	10	+7	18	D W D W D
Atromitos	9	4	5	0	11	7	+4	17	D W W D W
PAOK	10	4	2	4	13	10	+3	14	W L L D D
OFI	8	3	3	2	11	9	+2	12	L D W D D
Panaitolikos	8	3	2	3	9	10	-1	11	L D W L D
Xanthi	10	3	2	5	13	14	-1	11	W W L D L
Panionios	10	2	3	5	9	13	-4	9	D L L L D
Ergotelis	10	2	3	5	10	15	-5	9	L D W L D
PAS Giannina	8	2	3	3	8	10	-2	9	L D W D W
Aris	8	1	4	3	5	9	-4	7	W L L D D
Asteras Tripolis	8	1	3	4	3	9	-6	6	W L L D D
Kerkyra	8	1	2	5	7	14	-7	5	W L D L L
Doxa Dramas	1	0	1	0	0	0	+0	1	D
Levadiakos	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1	L D

SPAIN La Liga



	Last5games												
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Most recent first				
1 Real Madrid	12	10	1	1	42	9	+33	31	W	W	W	W	W
2 Barcelona	12	8	4	0	38	6	+32	28	W	D	W	W	D
3 Valencia	12	7	3	2	19	12	+7	24	L	W	W	W	D
4 Levante	12	7	2	3	19	12	+7	23	L	L	L	W	W
5 Málaga	12	6	2	4	15	15	+0	20	W	D	W	L	L
6 Sevilla	12	4	6	2	12	10	+2	18	L	D	L	D	D
7 Espanyol	12	5	2	5	9	13	-4	17	D	D	L	W	W
8 Athletic Club	12	4	5	3	19	15	+4	17	W	D	D	W	D
9 Atlético Madrid	12	4	4	4	17	16	+1	16	W	L	W	L	D
10 Rayo Vallecano	12	4	4	4	14	13	+1	16	D	W	L	W	W
11 Osasuna	12	3	6	3	14	24	-10	15	D	L	W	D	W
12 Villarreal	12	3	5	4	10	17	-7	14	W	D	W	L	L
13 Real Betis	12	4	1	7	10	16	-6	13	L	D	L	L	L
14 Sporting Gijón	12	3	3	6	12	17	-5	12	W	D	D	W	W
15 Getafe	12	2	4	6	13	19	-6	10	L	W	L	D	D
16 Mallorca	11	2	4	5	8	16	-8	10	D	L	L	D	D
17 Real Zaragoza	12	2	4	6	12	26	-14	10	L	D	L	L	D
18 Real Sociedad	12	2	3	7	9	18	-9	9	D	L	L	L	D
19 Racing Santander	12	1	6	5	8	18	-10	9	L	D	W	D	L
20 Granada	11	2	3	6	4	12	-8	9	D	W	L	L	D

HOLLAND Eredivisie



	Last5games									Most recent first			
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts					
1 AZ	12	10	1	1	28	8	+20	31	W	W	D	D	W
2 PSV	13	8	4	1	36	15	+21	28	W	W	D	D	W
3 Twente	13	7	5	1	33	13	+20	26	D	W	D	D	W
4 Ajax	13	5	6	2	34	22	+12	21	D	L	W	D	D
5 Feyenoord	13	6	3	4	25	17	+8	21	W	L	L	D	W
6 Heerenveen	13	5	6	2	26	20	+6	21	D	W	W	W	D
7 Groningen	13	6	3	4	24	19	+5	21	W	D	W	D	L
8 Vitesse	13	6	3	4	18	16	+2	21	L	L	L	D	W
9 Heracles	13	4	5	4	19	19	+0	17	D	L	L	W	W
10 NAC Breda	13	5	2	6	20	21	-1	17	D	W	W	L	W
11 Utrecht	13	4	4	5	24	24	+0	16	D	W	L	L	L
12 RKC Waalwijk	13	4	3	6	13	20	-7	15	D	D	L	L	L
13 Roda JC	13	5	0	8	17	34	-17	15	W	L	L	L	W
14 ADO Den Haag	13	4	2	7	16	26	-10	14	D	L	L	W	L
15 NEC	13	4	1	8	12	19	-7	13	L	W	W	L	L
16 De Graafschap	13	2	3	8	12	29	-17	9	L	L	L	D	W
17 VVV	13	1	4	8	13	31	-18	7	L	D	L	W	L
18 Excelsior	12	1	3	8	7	24	-17	6	D	W	L	L	D



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